艶漢

アデカン⑦

尚月地

Tsukiji NAO
presents!
大瀧屋

大人ガールのための、ドラマティック★ロマンティック♥マガジン!!

Wings
ウィングス

cover 尚 月地
偶数月28日発売
特別定価650円
2013
2
February

30th Anniversary
30周年記念企画!! 色紙プレゼント実施中!!

希望者みんなもらえる！描き下ろしペーパー
右京あやね

巻頭カラー!!
尚 月地
「艶漢」
アフレコレポも!
キタコレ☆"尚 月地"祭り、またまた降臨!!!

特別付録
ミニドラマCD
尚 月地
「艶漢」
CAST 福山 潤／前野智昭／櫻井孝宏／佐藤拓也

カラーつき!! お待ちかね・再登場!!
みもり「クラヤミに響け笑い声」

カラーつき!! 最終章突入!!
前田とも「結晶物語」
（原作・前田 栄）

トジツキハジメ
坂木 司
×藤たまき
那州雪絵
碧也ぴんく
かわい千草
なるしまゆり
右京あやね

エッセイ&ギャグ&コメディ!
荒川 弘
池田 乾
金色スイス
ホームラン・拳
松永 冴
ミキマキ
カラスヤサトシ
久世番子
カトリーヌあやこ
あおいれびん
堀江蟹子
菅野 彰
×南野ましろ

読み切り
りさり

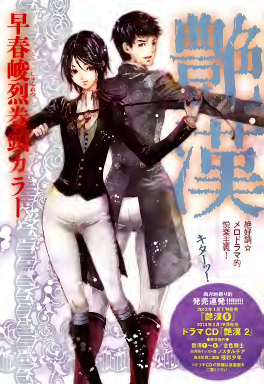
アデカ

第十九の話
彼の深層を覗けば
かれのしんそうをのぞけば
【中篇】

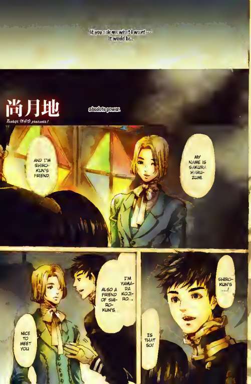
The nineteenth story
WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS

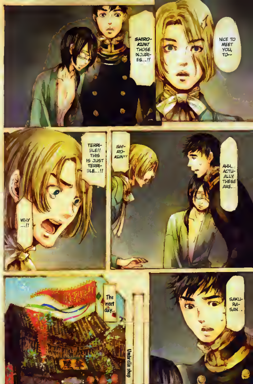
尚月地

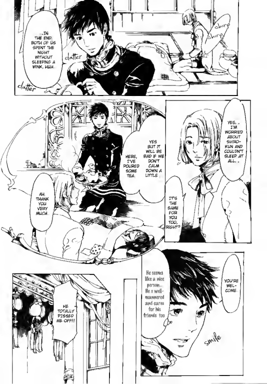
Part 2
みんな、気をつけて！
これはちょっとまたまたなにやら
どピンチなことになっちゃったりなんか
しちゃいそうですヨ！

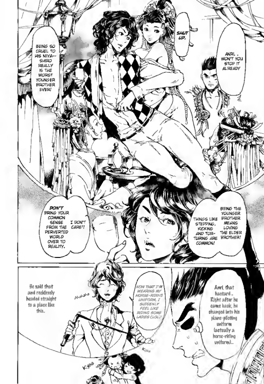

艶漢
早春峻烈（しゅんれつ）巻頭カラー
絶好調☆メロドラマ的悦楽主義!
キターーッ!

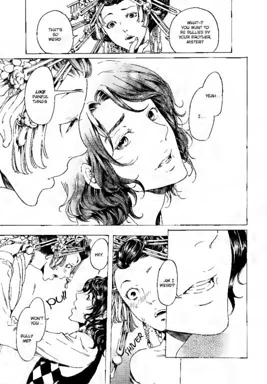
尚月地祭り的
発売連発!!!!!!!!
2013年1月下旬発売
『艶漢⑥』
2013年2月28日発売
ドラマCD『艶漢 2』
◆好評既刊◆
艶漢①～⑤／金色騎士
尚月地イラスト集 ノスタルヂア
尚月地第二画集 極彩少年
※ドラマCDの詳細は裏表紙をご覧ください

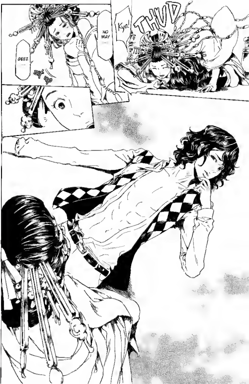

If you ask me what I want---
It would be...
尚月地
Tsukiji NAO presents!
absolute power.
My name is Sakura Haruzumi.
And I'm Shiro-kun's friend.
Shiro-kun's...!
Is that so!
I'm Yamada Kojiro.
Also a friend of Shiro-kun's.
Nice to meet you

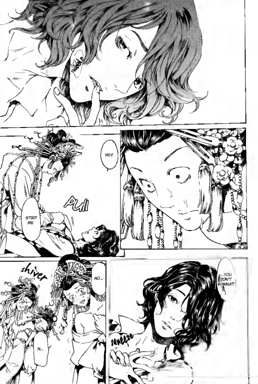

NICE TO MEET YOU, TO--
SHIRO-KUN! THOSE INJURIES...!!
SHIRO-KUN!!
AHH... ACTUALLY THESE ARE...
TERRIBLE!! THIS IS JUST TERRIBLE...!!
WHY...!!
SAKURA-SAN.
The next day...
Umbrella shop

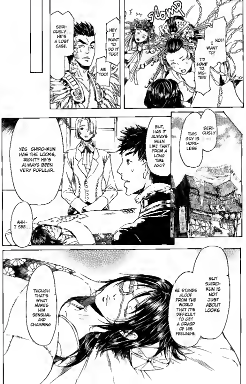

chirp chirp
...IN THE END BOTH OF US SPENT THE NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEPING A WINK, HUH.
clatter
clatter
YES.. I'M WORRIED ABOUT SHIRO-KUN AND COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL..
IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU TOO, RIGHT?
YES BUT IT WILL BE BAD IF WE DON'T CALM DOWN A LITTLE
HERE, I'VE POURED SOME TEA.
AH THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YOU'RE WELCOME
smile
He seems like a nice person... He's well-mannered and cares for his friends too
HE TOTALLY PISSED ME OFF!!

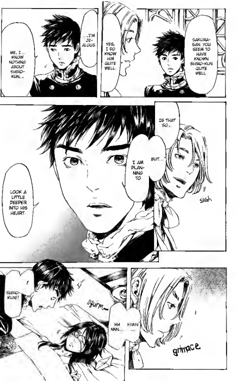

ANRI.. WON'T YOU STOP IT ALREADY
SHUT UP.
BEING SO CRUEL TO HIS NIIYA-SHIRO REALLY IS THE WORST YOUNGER BROTHER EVER!
BEING THE YOUNGER BROTHER MEANS LOVING THE ELDER BROTHER!
THINGS LIKE STEPPING, KICKING AND TOR-TURING ARE COMMON!
I DON'T CARE!!
DON'T BRING YOUR COMMON SENSE FROM THE PERVERTED WORLD OVER TO REALITY.
Anri, that bastard.. Right after he came back, he changed into his plane-piloting uniform (actually a horse-riding uniform)..
NOW THAT I'M WEARING MY HORSE-RIDING UNIFORM, I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE RIDING SOME LADIES (LOL)!
Ahahaha
Kyaa
Kyaa
He said that and recklessly headed straight to a place like this..

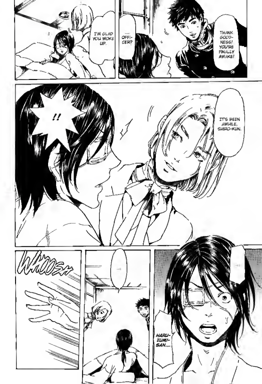

WHAT-? YOU WANT TO BE BULLIED BY YOUR BROTHER, MISTER?
THAT'S SO WEIRD
YEAH
I...
LIKE PAINFUL THINGS
...AM I WEIRD?
SHIVER
HEY
PULL
WON'T YOU
BULLY ME?

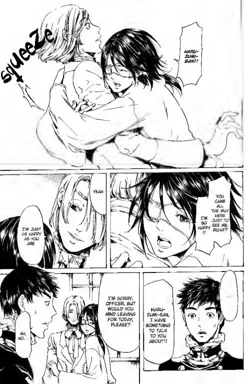

Kya!
THUD
NO WAY
GEEZ
sit up

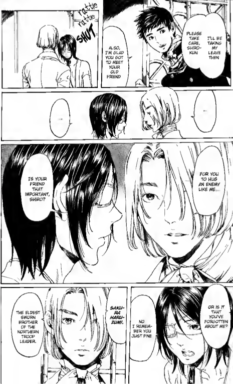

nibble
HEY.
STRIP ME
pull
...YOU DON'T WANNA?
squeeze
NO..
shiver
N..

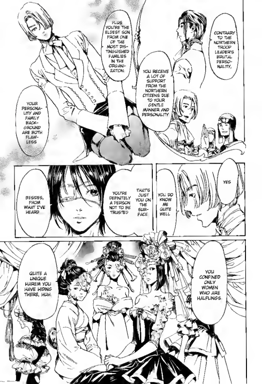

SLOMP
NO!! I WANT TO!
I'D *LOVE* TO MISTER!
HEY I WANT TO DO IT TOO!
SERIOUSLY HE'S A LOST CASE.
ME TOO!
SERIOUSLY
THIS GUY IS HOPELESS
BUT, HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT FROM A LONG TIME AGO?
YES SHIRO-KUN HAS THE LOOKS, RIGHT? HE'S ALWAYS BEEN VERY POPULAR.
AHH~ I SEE...
BUT SHIRO-KUN IS NOT JUST ABOUT LOOKS
HE STANDS ALOOF FROM THE WORLD THAT IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET A GRASP OF HIS FEELINGS.
THOUGH THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SENSUAL AND CHARMING

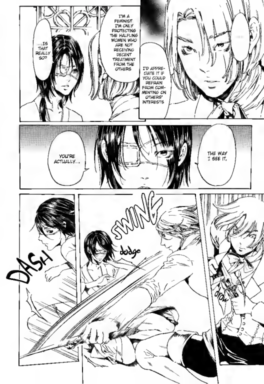

SAKURA-SAN, YOU SEEM TO HAVE KNOWN SHIRO-KUN QUITE WELL.
YES, I DO KNOW HIM QUITE WELL.
...I'M JEALOUS
ME, I... KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SHIRO-KUN...
IS THAT SO..
BUT...
sigh
I AM PLANNING TO
LOOK A LITTLE DEEPER INTO HIS HEART
grimace
HNNN...
HH NNN...
squirm...
SHIRO-KUN!!
!

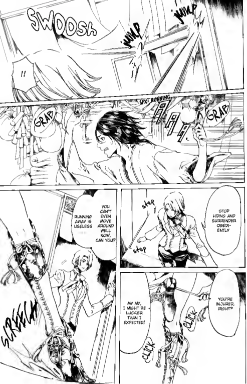

THANK GOODNESS! YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE!
... OFFICER?
I'M GLAD YOU WOKE UP.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE, SHIRO-KUN.
!!
HARUZUMI-SAN...
...
WHOOSH

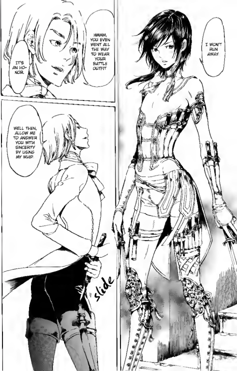

HARU-ZUMI-SAN!!
squeeze
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SEE ME RIGHT?
I'M SO HAPPY !!
YEAH
I'M JUST AS HAPPY AS YOU ARE
...
HARU-ZUMI-SAN, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!!
I'M SORRY, OFFICER, BUT WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING FOR TODAY, PLEASE?
AH, NO...

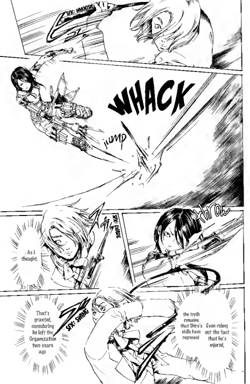

I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE THEN
PLEASE TAKE CARE, SHIRO-KUN
ALSO, I'M GLAD YOU GOT TO MEET YOUR OLD FRIEND
rattle rattle
SHUT
-
-
FOR YOU TO HUG AN ENEMY LIKE ME...
IS YOUR FRIEND THAT IMPORTANT, SHIRO?
OR IS IT THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME?
NO I REMEMBER YOU JUST FINE
SAKURA HARUZUMI.
THE ELDEST SWORN BROTHER OF THE NORTHERN TROOP LEADER.

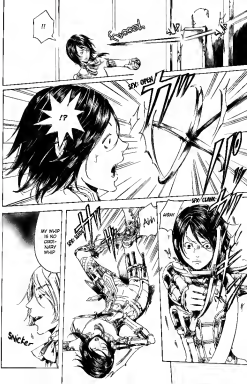

CONTRARY TO THE NORTHERN TROOP LEADER'S BRUTAL PERSONALITY,
YOU RECEIVE A LOT OF SUPPORT FROM THE NORTHERN CITIZENS DUE TO YOUR GENTLE MANNER AND PERSONALITY
PLUS YOU'RE THE ELDEST SON FROM ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED FAMILIES IN THE ORGANIZATION.
YOUR PERSONALITY AND FAMILY BACKGROUND ARE BOTH FLAWLESS
YES
YOU DO KNOW ME QUITE WELL
THAT'S JUST YOU ON THE SURFACE
YOU'RE DEFINITELY A PERSON NOT TO BE TRUSTED
BESIDES, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD
YOU CONFINED ONLY WOMEN WHO ARE HALFLINGS
QUITE A UNIQUE HAREM YOU HAVE HIDING THERE, HUH.

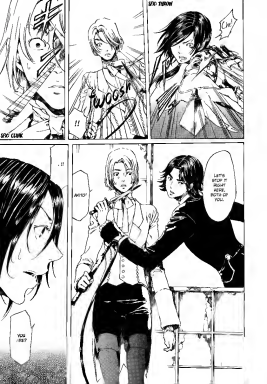

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON OTHERS' INTERESTS
I'M A FEMINIST I'M ONLY PROTECTING THE HALFLING WOMEN WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING DECENT TREATMENT FROM THE OTHERS
...IS THAT REALLY SO?
THE WAY I SEE IT,
YOU'RE ACTUALLY...
draw
SWING
dodge
DASH

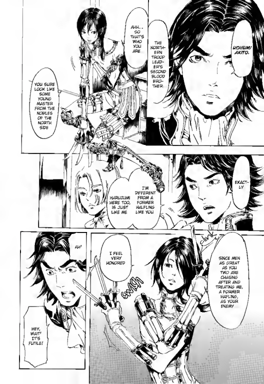

JUMP
JUMP
SWOOSH
!!
SFX: RUNNING
GRAB
GRAB
step
step
STOP HIDING AND SURRENDER OBEDIENTLY
YOU CAN'T EVEN MOVE AROUND WELL NOW, CAN YOU?
RUNNING AWAY IS USELESS
SKREECH
YOU'RE INJURED, RIGHT?
CLICK
CLICK
MY MY, I MIGHT BE LUCKIER THAN I EXPECTED!


I WON'T RUN AWAY
HMMM, YOU EVEN WENT ALL THE WAY TO WEAR YOUR BATTLE OUTFIT
IT'S AN HO-NOR.
WELL THEN, ALLOW ME TO ANSWER YOU WITH SINCERITY BY USING MY WHIP.
slide


SFX: WHOOSH
WHACK
jump
throw
SFX: EVADE
As I thought.
Even ruling out the fact that he's injured,
the truth remains that Shiro's skills have regressed
SFX: SWING
That's granted, considering he left the Organization two years ago


SLAP
SLAP
Fwoosh
!!
SFX: OPEN
!?
SFX: CLANK-
UGH!
Aww
SFX: SLIDE
MY WHIP IS NO ORDINARY WHIP
Snicker

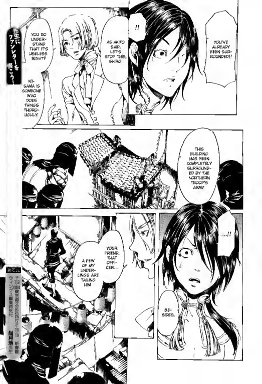

SFX: THROW
Che!
fwoosh
!!
SFX: CLINK
LET'S STOP IT RIGHT HERE, BOTH OF YOU.
AKITO!
..!!
YOU ARE?

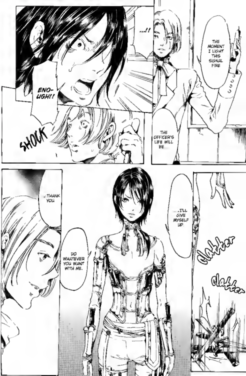

UCHIUMI AKITO.
THE NORTHERN TROOP LEADER'S SECOND BLOOD BROTHER.
AHH... SO THAT'S WHO YOU ARE
YOU SURE LOOK LIKE SOME YOUNG MASTER FROM THE NOBLES OF THE NORTH SIDE
EXACTLY
I'M DIFFERENT FROM A FORMER HALFLING LIKE YOU
HARUZUMI HERE TOO, IS JUST LIKE ME
SINCE MEN AS GREAT AS YOU TWO ARE CHASING AFTER AND TREATING ME, A FORMER HAFLING, AS YOUR ENEMY
clink
I FEEL VERY HONORED
swish
AH!
HEY, WAIT! IT'S FUTILE!

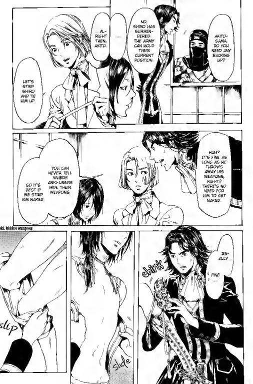
先生にファンレターを書こう!

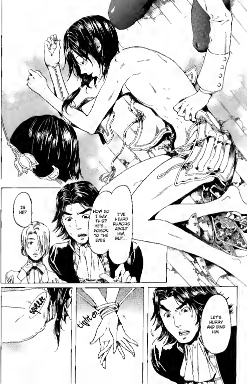
あて先

〒113 0024 東京都文京区西片2-19-18 新書館
ウィングス編集部気付
尚月地先生

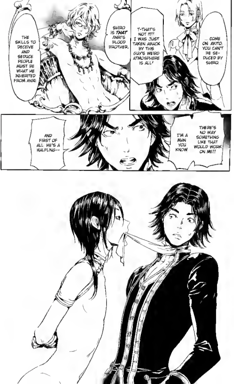

!!
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN SURROUNDED!!
AS AKITO SAID, LET'S STOP THIS, SHIRO
YOU DO UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S USELESS RIGHT?
NI-SAMA IS SOMEONE WHO DOES THINGS THOROUGHLY.
THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE NORTHERN TROOP'S ARMY
...!!
BESIDES,
YOUR FRIEND, THAT OFFICER...
A FEW OF MY UNDERLINGS ARE TAILING HIM.

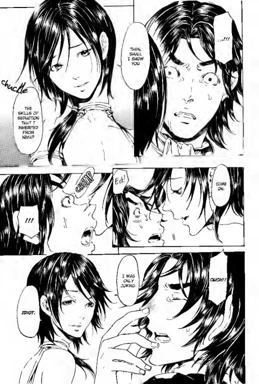

THE MOMENT I LIGHT THIS SIGNAL FIRE
THE OFFICER'S LIFE WILL BE
...!
ENOUGH!!
SHOCK
clatter
clatter
...I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME.
...THANK YOU.

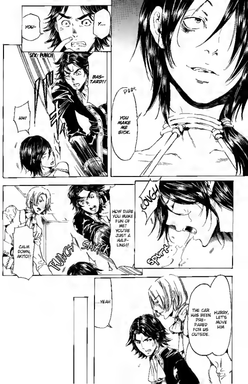

AKITO-SAMA, DO YOU NEED ANY BACKING UP?
NO. SHIRO HAS SURRENDERED. THE ARMY CAN HOLD THEIR CURRENT POSITION.
ALRIGHT THEN, AKITO.
LET'S STRIP SHIRO AND TIE HIM UP.
HUH? IT'S FINE AS LONG AS HE THROWS AWAY HIS WEAPONS, RIGHT? THERE'S NO NEED FOR HIM TO GET NAKED.
YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHERE ANKI-USERS HIDE THEIR WEAPONS.
SO IT'S BEST IF WE STRIP HIM NAKED.
Anki: hidden weapons
REALLY
FINE
chink
slide
slip

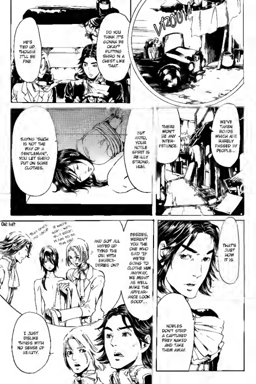

I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT HIM, BUT...
HOW DO I SAY THIS? HE'S POISON TO THE EYES
IS HE?
LET'S HURRY AND BIND HIM
tighten
squeeze

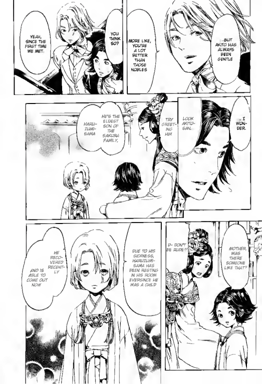
choke
AH
JOLT
OH!
SORRY!
...YES.

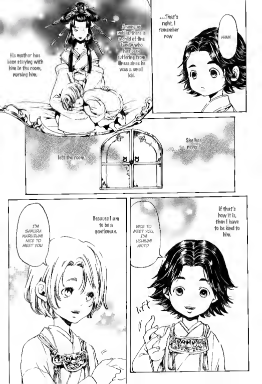

COME ON AKITO. YOU CAN'T BE SEDUCED BY SHIRO
T-THAT'S NOT IT!! I WAS JUST TAKEN ABACK BY THIS GUY'S WEIRD ATMOSPHERE IS ALL!
SHIRO IS *THAT* ANRI'S BLOOD BROTHER.
THE SKILLS TO DECEIVE AND SEDUCE PEOPLE MUST BE WHAT HE INHERITED FROM ANRI.
THERE'S NO WAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD WORK ON ME!!
I'M A MAN YOU KNOW
AND FIRST OF ALL HE'S A HALFLING--

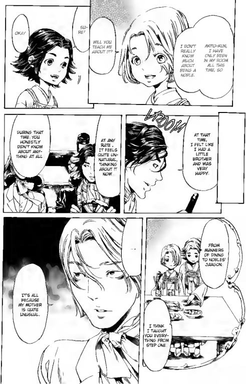

chuckle
THEN, SHALL I SHOW YOU
THE SKILLS OF SEDUCTION THAT I INHERITED FROM NIIYA?
...!!!
COME ON.
Eek!
CHOMP
!!!
OUCH!!
I WAS ONLY JOKING.
IDIOT.

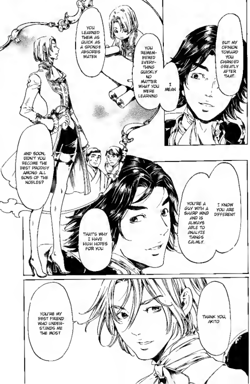

Pfft
YOU MAKE ME SICK.
YOU-
Y...
SFX: PUNCH
BASTARD!!
UH!
COUGH
spurt
HOW DARE YOU MAKE FUN OF ME! YOU'RE JUST A HALFLING!!
PUNCH SMACK
CALM DOWN, AKITO!!
HURRY, LET'S MOVE HIM
THE CAR HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR US OUTSIDE.
...YEAH

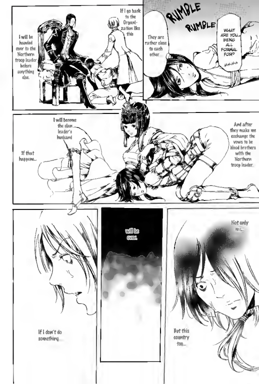

VROOM
DO YOU THINK IT'S GONNA BE OKAY? PUTTING SHIRO IN A CHEST LIKE THAT.
HE'S TIED UP, THOUGH IT'LL BE FINE
WE'VE TAKEN ROADS WHICH ARE RARELY PASSED BY PEOPLE...
THERE WON'T BE ANY INTERFERENCE.
BUT AKITO, YOUR NOBLE SPIRIT IS REALLY STRONG, HUH.
SAYING 'SUCH IS NOT THE WAY OF A GENTLEMAN!', YOU LET SHIRO PUT ON SOME CLOTHES.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
NOBLES DON'T STRIP A CAPTURED PREY NAKED AND TAKE THEM AWAY.
BESIDES, WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID 'IF WE'RE GOING TO CLOTHE HIM ANYWAY, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE APPEARANCE LOOK GOOD'...
AND GOT ALL HYPED UP TYING THE OBI WITH EMBROIDERIES ON?
If we're goin' with that color, it has to be this obi!
That one's no good!
Obi: belt
I JUST DISLIKE THINGS WITH NO SENSE OF BEAUTY.

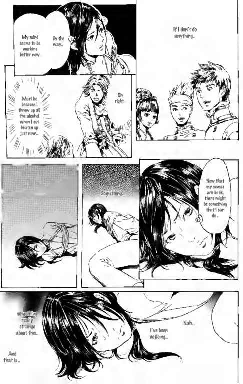

...BUT AKITO HAS ALWAYS BEEN GENTLE
MORE LIKE, YOU'RE A LOT BETTER THAN THOSE NOBLES
YOU THINK SO?
YEAH, SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
...I WONDER.
LOOK AKITO-SAN.
TRY GREETING HIM
HE'S THE ELDEST SON OF THE SAKURA FAMILY,
HARUZUMI-SAMA
MOTHER, WAS THERE SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
D- DON'T BE RUDE!!
DUE TO HIS SICKNESS, HARUZUMI-SAMA HAS BEEN RESTING IN HIS ROOM EVERSINCE HE WAS A CHILD
HE RECOVERED RECENTLY
AND IS ABLE TO COME OUT NOW

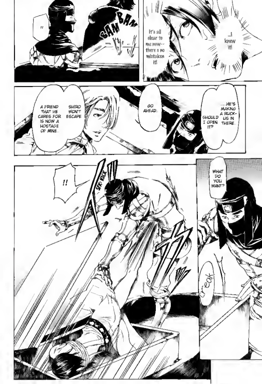

...That's right, I remember now
HMM
Among us nobles, there is a child of fine family who has been suffering from illness since he was a small kid.
His mother has been staying with him in the room, nursing him.
She has never
left the room.
If that's how it is, then I have to be kind to him.
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M UCHIUMI AKITO
lift
Because I am to be a gentleman.
I'M SAKURA HARUZUMI NICE TO MEET YOU

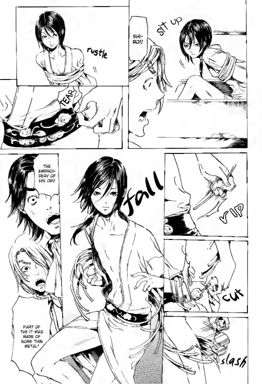

AKITO-KUN, I HAVE ONLY BEEN IN MY ROOM ALL THIS TIME, SO
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT BEING A NOBLE.
WILL YOU TEACH ME ABOUT IT?
SU-RE!
OKAY
VROOM
AT THAT TIME, I FELT LIKE I HAD A LITTLE BROTHER AND WAS VERY HAPPY.
AT ANY RATE, IT FEELS QUITE UN-NATURAL, THINKING ABOUT IT NOW.
DURING THAT TIME, YOU HONESTLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY-THING AT ALL
FROM MANNERS OF DINING TO NOBLES' JARGON,
I THINK I TAUGHT YOU EVERY-THING FROM STEP ONE.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE MY MOTHER IS QUITE UNUSUAL.

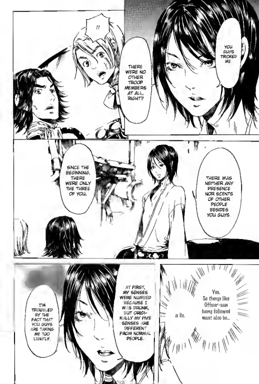

BUT MY OPINION TOWARD YOU CHANGED GREATLY AFTER THAT
I MEAN
YOU REMEMBERED EVERYTHING QUICKLY NO MATTER WHAT YOU WERE LEARNING
YOU LEARNED THEM AS QUICK AS A SPONGE ABSORBS WATER
AND SOON, DIDN'T YOU BECOME THE BEST PRODIGY AMONG ALL SONS OF THE NOBLES?
I KNOW YOU ARE DIFFERENT
YOU'RE A GUY WITH A SHARP MIND AND IS ALWAYS ABLE TO ANALYZE THINGS CALMLY
THAT'S WHY I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU
THANK YOU, AKITO
YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND WHO UNDERSTANDS ME THE MOST

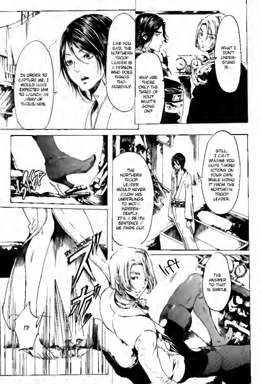

WHAT ARE YOU BEING ALL FORMAL FOR?
Hahaha
RUMBLE RUMBLE
They are rather close to each other...
If I go back to the Organization like this
I will be handed over to the Northern troop leader before anything else.
And after they make me exchange the vows to be blood brothers with the Northern troop leader.
I will become the clan leader's husband
If that happens...
Not only me...
But this country too...
will be over.
If I don't do something...

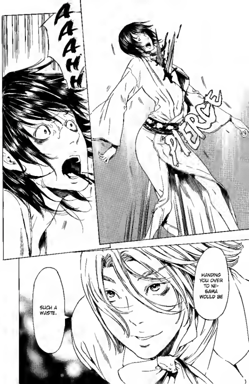

If I don't do anything..
By the way..
My mind seems to be working better now
Oh right
Must be because I threw up all the alcohol when I got beaten up just now...
Now that my senses are back, there might be something that I can do..
Something...
Nah..
I've been noticing...
something really strange about this..
And that is ..

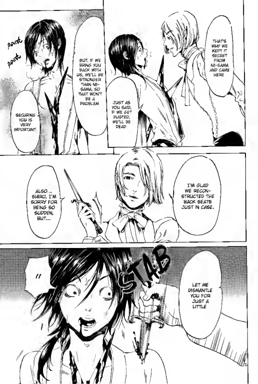

...I knew it!
It's all clear to me now--there's no mistaken it!
BAM BAM
''
...HE'S MAKING A RUCKUS IN THERE.
SHOULD I OPEN IT?
GO AHEAD.
SHIRO WON'T ESCAPE.
A FRIEND THAT HE CARES FOR IS NOW A HOSTAGE OF MINE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
creak
SFX: KICK
!!

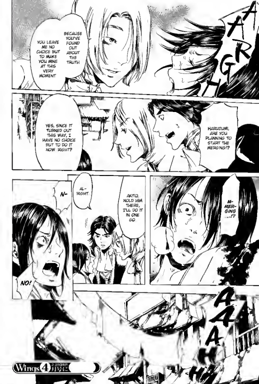

SHI-RO!!
sit up
rustle
TEAR
rip
cut
slash
fall
THE EMBROIDERY OF HIS OBI!
PART OF THE IT WAS MADE OF SOME THIN METAL!


YOU GUYS TRICKED ME
THERE WERE NO OTHER TROOP MEMBERS AT ALL, RIGHT?
!!
THERE WAS NEITHER ANY PRESENCE NOR SCENTS OF OTHER PEOPLE BESIDES YOU GUYS
SINCE THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE ONLY THE THREE OF YOU.
Yes. So things like Officer-san being followed must also be...
a lie.
AT FIRST, MY SENSES WERE NUMBED BECAUSE I WAS DRUNK, BUT ORIGINALLY MY FIVE SENSES ARE DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL PEOPLE.
I'M TROUBLED BY THE FACT THAT YOU GUYS ARE TAKING ME TOO LIGHTLY.


WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND IS...
WHY ARE THERE ONLY THE THREE OF YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON?
LIKE YOU SAID, THE NORTHERN TROOP LEADER IS A PERSON WHO DOES THINGS THO-ROUGHLY.
IN ORDER TO CAPTURE ME, I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED HIM TO LAUNCH AN ARMY OF THOUSANDS.
STILL, I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU GUYS TAKING ACTIONS ON YOUR OWN WHILE HIDING IT FROM THE NORTHERN TROOP LEADER.
THE NORTHERN TROOP LEADER WOULD NEVER ALLOW HIS UNDERLINGS TO WORK INDEPEN-DENTLY. IT'S A DEATH SENTENCE IF HE FINDS OUT.
STEP
THE ANSWER TO THAT IS SIMPLE
lift
SFX: PUNCTURE
!?


PIERCE
AAAHH
HANDING YOU OVER TO NI-SAMA WOULD BE
SUCH A WASTE.

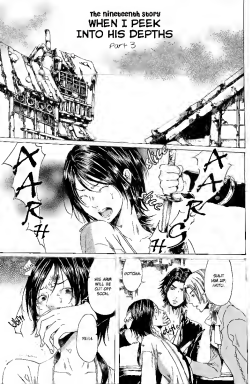

THAT'S WHY WE KEPT IT SECRET FROM NII-SAMA AND CAME HERE
JUST AS YOU SAID, IF WE GET BUSTED, WE'LL BE DEAD
BUT, IF WE BRING YOU BACK WITH US, WE'LL BE STRONGER THAN NII-SAMA, SO THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM
pant pant
SECURING YOU IS VERY IMPORTANT
I'M GLAD WE RECONSTRUCTED THE BACK SEATS JUST IN CASE.
ALSO... SHIRO, I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SUDDEN, BUT...
LET ME DISMANTLE YOU FOR JUST A LITTLE
STAB
!!


AARGH
BECAUSE YOU'VE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE TRUTH
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE YOU MINE AT THIS VERY MOMENT
HARUZUMI, ARE YOU PLANNING TO START THE MERGING!?
YES, SINCE IT TURNED OUT THIS WAY, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT NOW RIGHT?
M-MERGING ...!?
AKITO, HOLD HIM THERE, I'LL DO IT IN ONE GO
AL-RIGHT
N-
NO!
AAAAHH

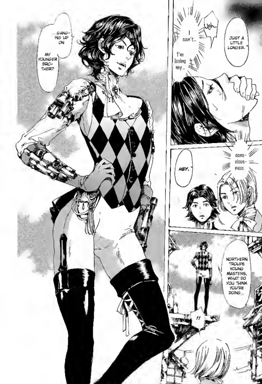
The nineteenth story

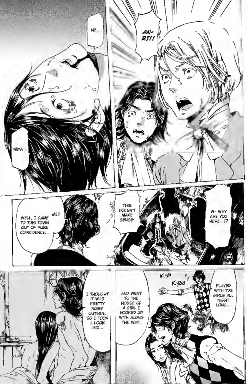
WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS

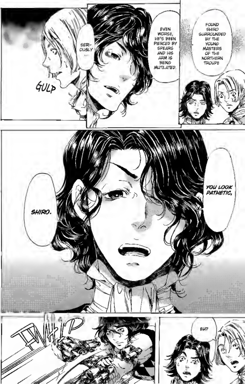
Part 3

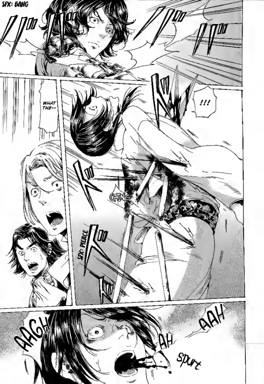


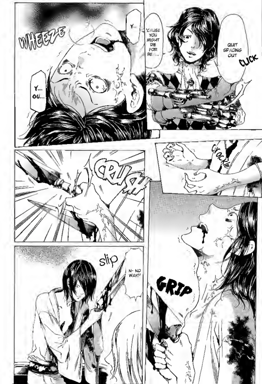
AARGH
slice
slice
AARGH
SHUT HIM UP, AKITO.
GOTCHA.
stifle
Mmf
HIS ARM WILL BE CUT OFF SOON.
Ubbh!
YEAH.
Ubf!!

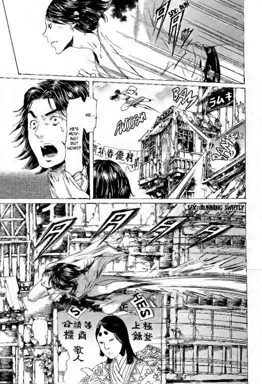

JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
Ugh...
I can't...
I'm losing my...
consciousness
HEY.
NORTHERN TROUPE YOUNG MASTERS, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...
!!
GANGING UP ON MY YOUNGER BROTHER?

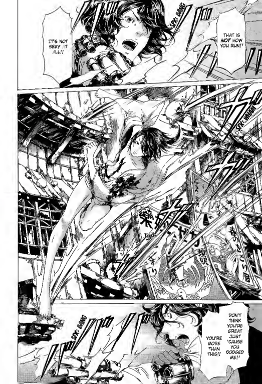

AN-RI!!
NI-
NIIYA...
W- WHY ARE YOU HERE...!?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
ME?
WELL, I CAME TO THIS TOWN OUT OF PURE COINCIDENCE...
PLAYED WITH THE GIRLS ALL NIGHT LONG...
Kya Kyaa
AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF A GIRL I HOOKED UP WITH ALONG THE WAY...
I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY NOISY OUTSIDE, SO I TOOK A LOOK AND...

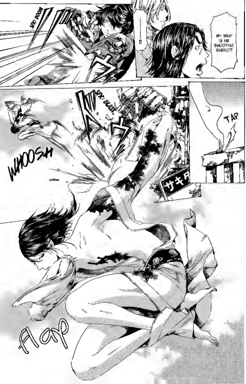

FOUND SHIRO SURROUNDED BY THE YOUNG MASTERS OF THE NORTHERN TROUPE
EVEN WORSE, HE'S BEEN PIERCED BY SPEARS AND HIS ARM IS BEING MUTILATED.
SERI-OUSLY ...
GULP
YOU LOOK PATHETIC,
SHIRO.
EH?
TWHIP

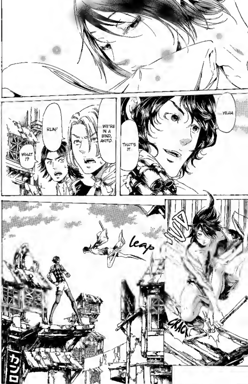

SFX: BANG
!!!
CHING
SFX: PIERCE
WHAT THE--
AAH
AH
spurt
AAGH

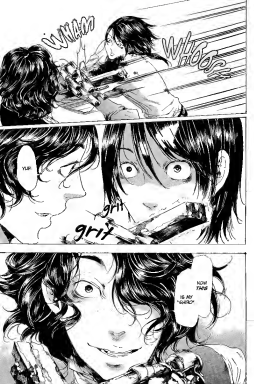

QUIT SPACING OUT
CLICK
'CAUSE YOU MIGHT DIE FOR REAL.
Y...
WHEEZE
Y... OU...
crackle
CRUSH
GRIP
N- NO WAY!!
slip

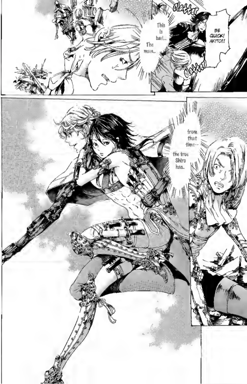

SFX: RUN
HE...
HE'S MOVING! BUT HOW!?
BAM
ラムキ
WOOSH
春優村
BAM
SFX: RUNNING SWIFTLY
S
HES
極上
登録
等請合
商標
歌人

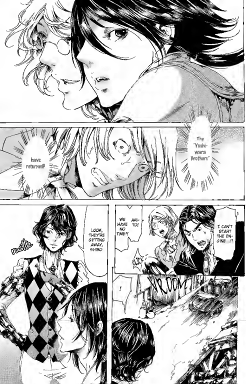

THAT IS *NOT* HOW YOU RUN!!
SFX: DONG
IT'S NOT SEXY AT ALL!!
SFX: WHUM
藥
すり
頓服
春のをどり
DON'T THINK YOU'RE GREAT JUST 'CAUSE YOU DODGED ME!!
YOU'RE MORE THAN THIS!!
SFX: DONG

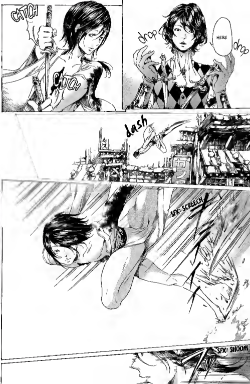

W- WHY IS HE SHOOTING SHIRO!?
........!!
SFX: BOOM
TAP
SFX: BLAST
WHOOSH
サキ
flap

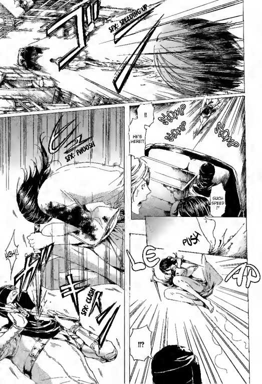

YEAH.
THAT'S IT.
WE'RE IN A BIND, AKITO.
RUN!
WHAT!?
leap
CRACK
カンロ

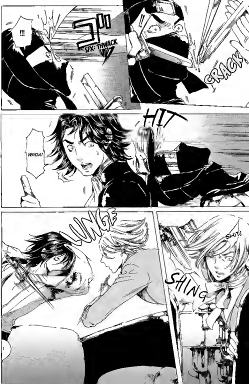

WHOOSH
WHAM
grit
grit
YUP
NOW THIS IS MY "SHIRO"

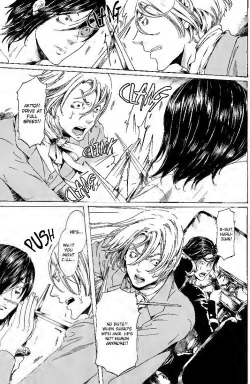

Clatter
BE QUICK! AKITO!!
This is bad...
The man...
Clatter
from that time--
the true Shiro has..

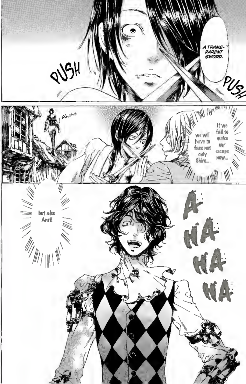

The "Yoshiwara Brothers"
have returned!!
I CAN'T START THE ENGINE !!
AKITO!
WE HAVE NO TIME!!
CLICK
CLICK
LOOK, THEY'RE GETTING AWAY, SHIRO
rustle
VROOM
!

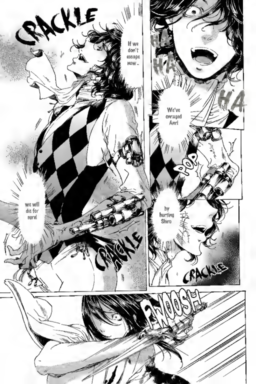

drop
HERE
drop
CATCH
CATCH
dash
SFX: SCREECH
SFX: SHOOM

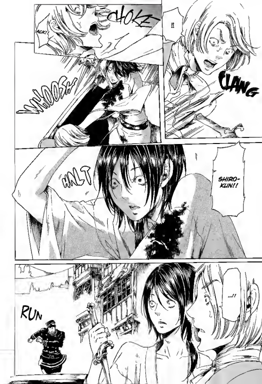

SFX: SPEEDING UP
!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HE'S HERE!!
SUCH SPEED!!
SFX: FWOOSH
UGH!!
SFX: CLASH
PUSH
LEAP
!!?

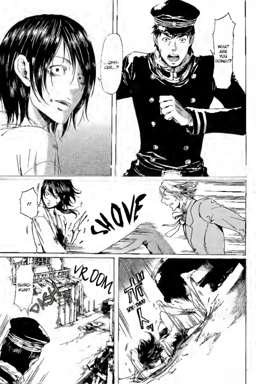

!!
CRACK
ゴ
SFX: THWACK
!!!
HIT
WHOA!
SHIT!
SHING
LUNGE

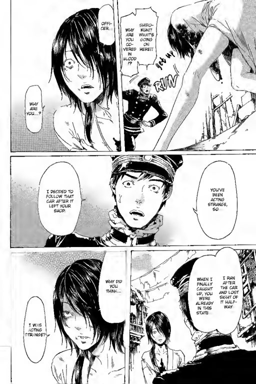

CLANG
CLANG
AKITO!! DRIVE AT FULL SPEED!!
CLINK
CLANG
B-BUT HARU-ZUMI!
NO BUTS!! WHEN SHIRO'S WITH ANRI, HE'S NOT HUMAN ANYMORE!!
HE'S... WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL...
PUSH

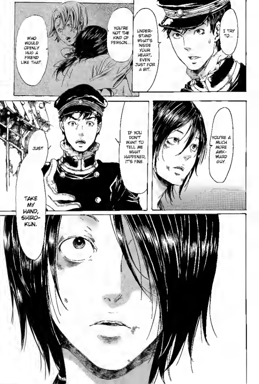

A TRANSPARENT SWORD.
PUSH
PUSH
If we fail to make our escape now...
we will have to face not only Shiro...
Ahaha
A
HA
HA
HA
but also Anri!

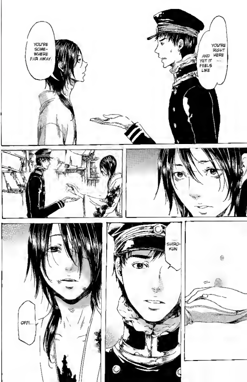

HA
HA
HA
We've enraged Anri
POP
by hurting Shiro
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
If we don't escape now...
we will die for sure!
CRACKLE
FWOOSH

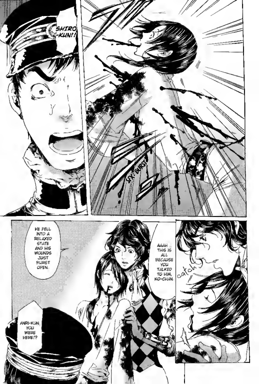

!!
CLANG
ACK!!
CHOKE
WHOOSH
SHIRO-KUN!!
HALT
...!!
RUN

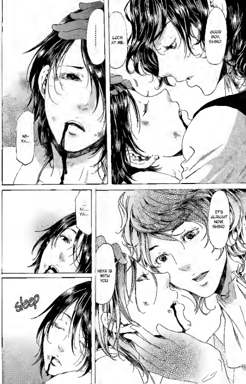

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
...OFFI-CER...?
!!
SHOVE
ガッ
SFX: THUD
ドッ
SHIRO-KUN!!
VROOM
DASH

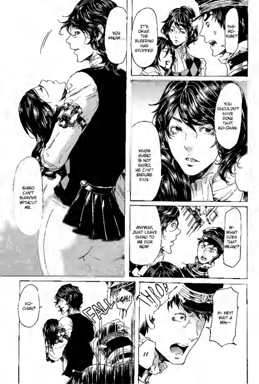

SHIRO-KUN!! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!
WHY ARE YOU COVERED IN BLOOD !?
RUN
OFFICER...
WHY ARE YOU...?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE, SO
I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THAT CAR AFTER IT LEFT YOUR SHOP.
I RAN AFTER THE CAR AND LOST SIGHT OF IT HALFWAY.
WHEN I FINALLY CAUGHT UP, YOU WERE ALREADY IN THIS STATE.
WHY DID YOU THINK...
I WAS ACTING STRANGE?

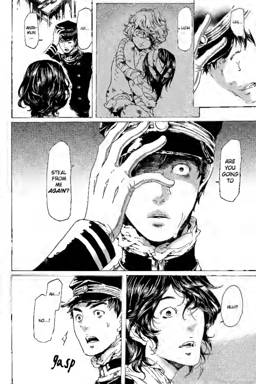

I TRY TO...
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR HEART, EVEN JUST FOR A BIT.
YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF PERSON...
WHO WOULD OPENLY HUG A FRIEND LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE A MUCH MORE AWKWARD GUY.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED, IT'S FINE.
JUST
TAKE MY HAND, SHIRO-KUN.

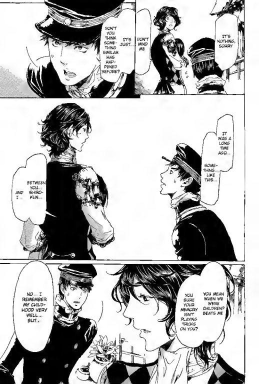

YOU'RE RIGHT HERE AND YET IT ... FEELS LIKE
YOU'RE SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.
SHIRO-KUN
OFFI...

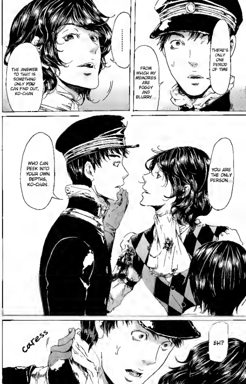

SFX: BURST
SHIRO-KUN!!
catch
AAAH THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU TALKED TO HIM, KO-CHAN.
HE FELL INTO A RELAXED STATE AND HIS WOUNDS JUST BURST OPEN.
ANRI-KUN, YOU WERE HERE!?

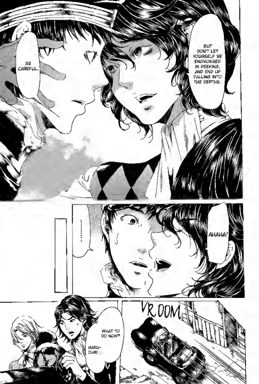

GOOD BOY, SHIRO
LOOK AT ME.
......
NI-YA...
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW SHIRO
NIIYA IS WITH YOU
... NI... YA...
sleep

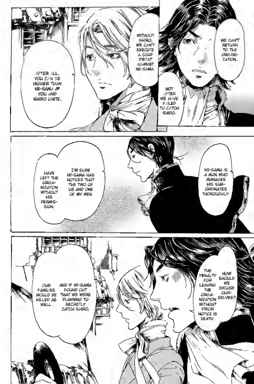

SHI-RO-KUN!!
IT'S OKAY. THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED.
YOU KNOW
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, KO-CHAN.
WHEN SHIRO IS NOT SHIRO, HE CAN'T ENDURE PAIN.
SHIRO CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT ME.
W-WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!?
ANYWAY, JUST LEAVE SHIRO TO ME FOR NOW.
H- HEY! WAIT A MIN--
THROB
KO-CHAN?
FALL
UGH!!

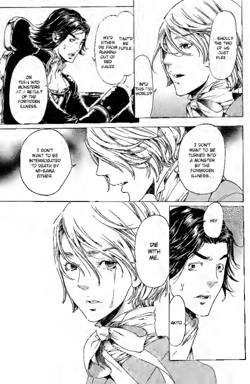

UH...
UGH
AH...
ANRI-KUN ....
ARE YOU GOING TO
STEAL FROM ME *AGAIN?*
HUH?
AH...!
NO...!
gasp

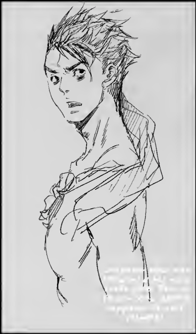

IT'S NOTHING, SORRY
DON'T MIND ME
IT'S JUST...
DON'T YOU THINK SOMETHING SIMILAR HAS HAPPENED BEFORE?
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
BETWEEN YOU, SHIRO-KUN...
AND I...
YOU MEAN WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN? BEATS ME
YOU SURE YOUR MEMORY ISN'T PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU?
NO... I REMEMBER MY CHILDHOOD VERY WELL... BUT...


THERE'S ONLY ONE PERIOD OF TIME
FROM WHICH MY MEMORIES ARE FOGGY AND BLURRY
……
THE ANSWER TO THAT IS SOMETHING ONLY **YOU** CAN FIND OUT, KO-CHAN
YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON
WHO CAN PEEK INTO YOUR OWN DEPTHS, KO-CHAN.
EH?
caress


BUT DON'T LET YOURSELF BE ENGROSSED IN PEEKING, AND END UP FALLING INTO THE DEPTHS.
BE CAREFUL.
AHAHA!
......
VROOM
WHAT TO DO NOW?
HARUZUMI

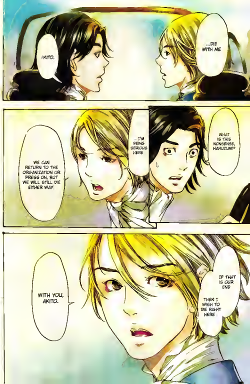

WE CAN'T RETURN TO THE ORGANIZATION.
NOT AFTER WE HAVE FAILED TO CATCH SHIRO.
WITHOUT SHIRO, WE CAN'T EXECUTE A COUP D'ETAT AGAINST NII-SAMA.
AFTER ALL, YOU CAN BE HIGHER THAN NII-SAMA IF YOU AND SHIRO UNITE.
NII-SAMA IS A MAN WHO MANAGES HIS SUBORDINATES THOROUGHLY.
I'M SURE NII-SAMA HAS NOTICED THAT THE TWO OF US AND ONE OF MY MEN
HAVE LEFT THE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION.
HOW SHOULD WE EXCUSE OURSELVES?
THE PENALTY FOR LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE IS DEATH
AND IF NII-SAMA FOUND OUT THAT WE WERE PLANNING TO SECRETLY CATCH SHIRO,
OUR FAMILIES WOULD BE KILLED AS WELL.

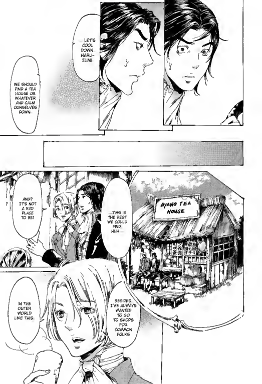

SHOULD THE TWO OF US JUST FLEE
INTO THIS BIG WORLD?
THAT'D BE FUTILE.
WE'D EITHER DIE FROM RUNNING OUT OF RED GALIZE
OR TURN INTO MONSTERS AS A RESULT OF THE FORBIDDEN ILLNESS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE TURNED INTO A MONSTER BY THE FORBIDDEN ILLNESS.
I DON'T WANT TO BE INTERROGATED TO DEATH BY NII-SAMA EITHER
HEY
DIE WITH ME.
AKITO

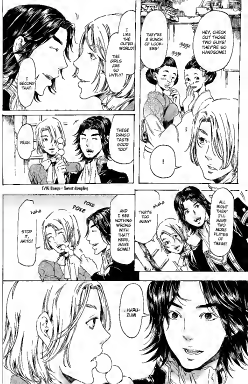


The nineteenth story

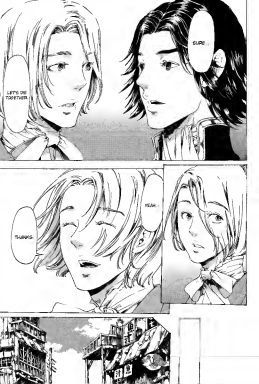
Part ④ WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS

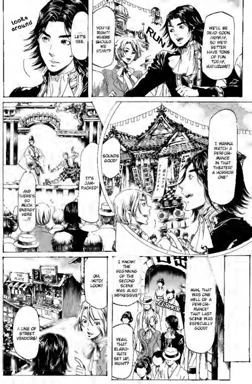

...DIE WITH ME
AKITO.
WHAT IS THIS NONSENSE, HARUZUMI?
...I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE
WE CAN RETURN TO THE ORGANIZATION OR PRESS ON, BUT WE WILL STILL DIE EITHER WAY.
IF THAT IS OUR END
THEN I WISH TO DIE RIGHT HERE
WITH YOU, AKITO.

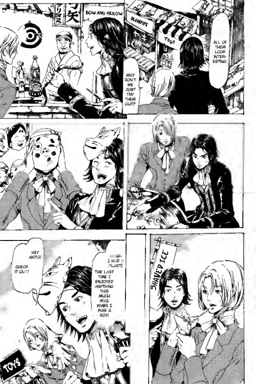

LET'S COOL DOWN, HARUZUMI.
WE SHOULD FIND A TEA HOUSE OR WHATEVER AND CALM OURSELVES DOWN.
AYANO TEA HOUSE
...THIS IS THE BEST WE COULD FIND HUH...
AND? IT'S NOT A BAD PLACE TO BE!
BESIDES, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO SHOPS FOR COMMON FOLKS
IN THE OUTER WORLD LIKE THIS.

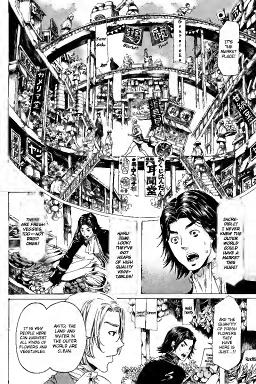

HEY, CHECK OUT THOSE TWO GUYS! THEY'RE SO HANDSOME!
giggle
giggle
THEY'RE A BUNCH OF LOOKERS!
I LIKE THE OUTER WORLD! THE GIRLS ARE SO LIVELY!
I SECOND THAT.
!
THESE DANGO TASTE GOOD TOO!
YEAH.
ALL RIGHT THEN! I'LL HAVE TWO MORE PLATES OF THESE!
ahaha
THAT'S TOO MANY!
AND I SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT! HERE, HAVE SOME!
POKE
POKE
haha
STOP IT, AKITO!
HARUZUMI

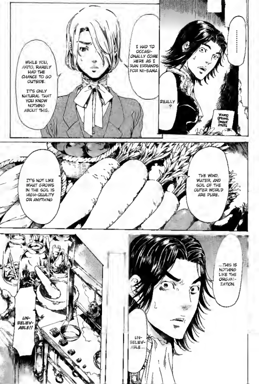
T/N: Dango - Sweet dumpling

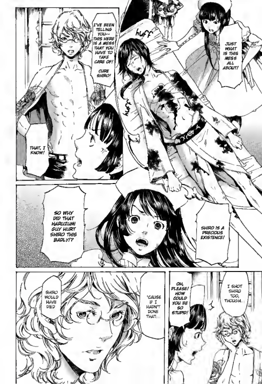

LET'S DIE TOGETHER.
SURE
THANKS.
YEAH

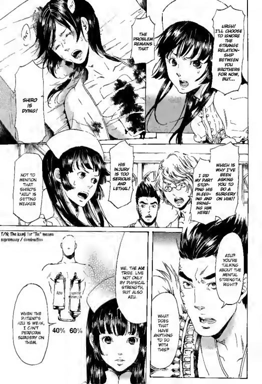

WE'LL BE DEAD SOON ANYWAY, SO WE'D BETTER HAVE TONS OF FUN TODAY, HARUZUMI!!
RUN
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHERE SHOULD WE START?
... LET'S SEE.
looks around
I WANNA WATCH A PERFORMANCE IN THAT THEATER! A HORROR ONE!
SOUNDS GOOD!
IT'S JAM-PACKED!
AND THERE'S SO MUCH ENERGY HERE .....!!
MAN, THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A PERFORMANCE! THAT LAST SCENE WAS ESPECIALLY GOOD!
I KNOW! THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND SCENE WAS ALSO IMPRESSIVE!
CLAMOR
YEAH, THAT ELABORATE SET UP, RIGHT?
OH, AKITO! LOOK!
SPINNING TOP
コマ
TIN PLATE
A LINE OF STREET VENDORS!

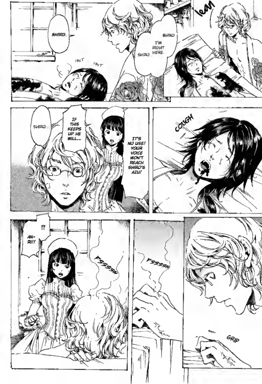

ALL OF THEM LOOK INTERESTING.
TOYS
BLOWPIPE
WHY DON'T WE JUST TRY THEM OUT?
BOW AND ARROW
矢
SHAVED ICE
AAAH~ I HAD A BLAST! THE LAST TIME I ENJOYED ANYTHING THIS MUCH WAS WHEN I WAS A BOY!
HEY AKITO! CHECK IT OUT!
TOYS

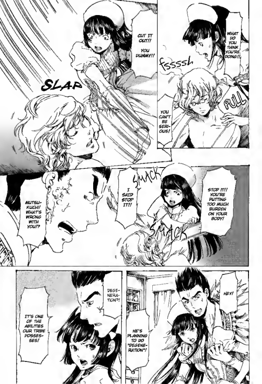

IT'S THE MARKET PLACE!
Gentoicho
場 Market
市 Place
Yume Saki
カメリマ堂
道具屋
みくじはんだん
INCREDIBLE! I NEVER KNEW THE OUTER WORLD COULD HAVE A MARKET THIS HUGE!
HARUSUMI, LOOK! THEY'VE GOT HEAPS OF HIGH QUALITY VEGETABLES!
THERE ARE FRESH VEGGIES TOO—NOT DRIED ONES!
AND THE QUANTITY OF FRESH FLOWERS THEY HAVE HERE IS JUST...!!
Wild herb
Onion
Sweet potato
AKITO, THE LAND AND WATER IN THE OUTER WORLD ARE CLEAN.
IT IS WHY PEOPLE HERE CAN HARVEST ALL KINDS OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

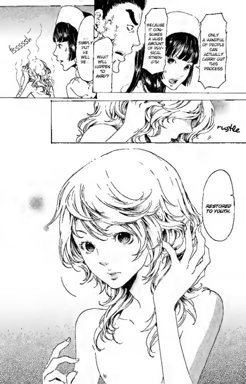

I HAD TO OCCASIONALLY COME HERE AS I RAN ERRANDS FOR NII-SAMA
WHILE YOU, AKITO, RARELY HAD THE CHANCE TO GO OUTSIDE.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS.
......
REALLY?
Young greens Sweet fruits
THE WIND, WATER, AND SOIL OF THE OUTER WORLD ARE PURE.
IT'S NOT LIKE WHAT GROWS IN THE SOIL IS HIGH-QUALITY OR ANYTHING
...THIS IS NOTHING LIKE THE ORGANIZATION.
UNBELIEVABLE...
UNBELIEVABLE!!

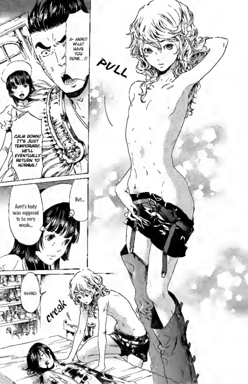

JUST WHAT IS THIS MESS ALL ABOUT!?
huff
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU-- THIS HERE IS A MESS THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF!
CURE SHIRO!
huff
THAT, I KNOW!
SHIRO IS A PRECIOUS EXISTENCE!
SO WHY DID THAT HARUZUMI GUY HURT SHIRO THIS BADLY!?
I SHOT SHIRO TOO, THOUGH.
OH, PLEASE! HOW COULD YOU BE SO STUPID!
'CAUSE IF I HADN'T DONE THAT...
SHIRO WOULD HAVE DIED

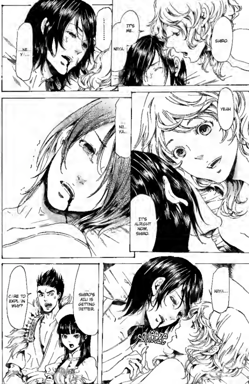

URGH! I'LL CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE STRANGE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU BROTHERS FOR NOW, BUT...
THE PROBLEM REMAINS THAT
PANT
PANT
SHIRO IS DYING!
WHICH IS WHY I'VE BEEN ASKING YOU TO DO A SURGERY ON HIM!!
I DID MY PART STOPPING HIS BLEEDING AND BRINGING HIM HERE!
HIS INJURY IS TOO SERIOUS AND LETHAL!
NOT TO MENTION THAT SHIRO'S "AZU" IS GETTING WEAKER
AZU? YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MENTAL STRENGTH, RIGHT?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?
T/N: The kanji for "Ha" means supremacy / domination
WE, THE HA TRIBE LIVE NOT ONLY BY PHYSICAL STRENGTH, BUT ALSO AZU.
Azu
physical strength
40%
60%
WHEN THE PATIENT'S AZU IS WEAK, I CAN'T PERFORM SURGERY ON THEM.

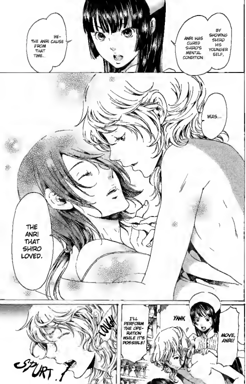

lean
SHIRO
I'M RIGHT HERE.
SHIRO
SHIRO
PANT
PANT
COUGH
IT'S NO USE! YOUR VOICE WON'T REACH SHIRO'S AZU!
IF THIS KEEPS UP HE WILL...
SHIRO
GRIP
FSSSSH
FSSSSH
!?
AN-RI!!

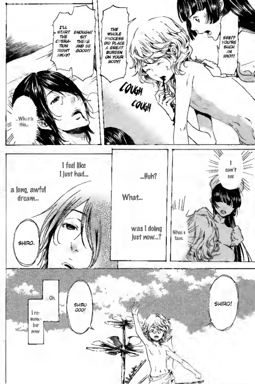

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!!
fssssh
PULL
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
CUT IT OUT!! YOU DUMMY!!
SLAP
STOP IT!! YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH BURDEN ON YOUR BODY!
I SAID STOP IT!!
SMACK
SMACK
MUTSUKUCHI!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?
HEY!
HE'S PLANNING TO DO "DEGENERATION"!
DEGENERATION?!
IT'S ONE OF THE ABILITIES OUR TRIBE POSSESSES!

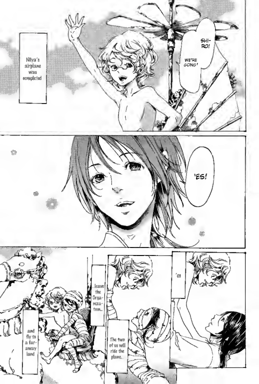

ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY CARRY OUT THIS PROCESS
BECAUSE IT CONSUMES A HUGE AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ANRI!?
SIMPLY PUT HE WILL BE...
fssssh
rustle
RESTORED TO YOUTH.

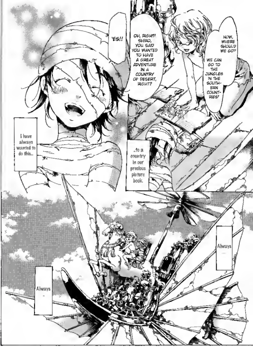

PULL
A- ANRI!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ..!!
CALM DOWN! IT'S JUST TEMPORARY. HE'LL EVENTUALLY RETURN TO NORMAL!
But...
Anri's body was supposed to be very weak...
SHIRO
creak

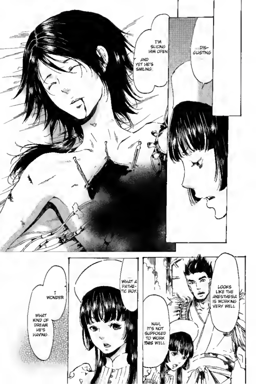

SHIRO.
IT'S ME...
NIIYA.
....
...NI... YA...
YEAH
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW, SHIRO.
NI... YA...
NIIYA...
SQUEEZE
... SHIRO'S AZU IS GETTING BETTER.
CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY?

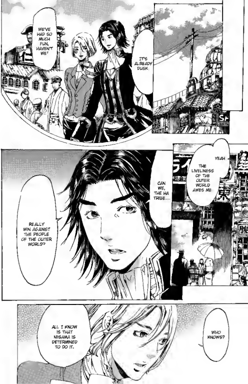

BY SHOWING SHIRO HIS YOUNGER SELF,
ANRI HAS CURED SHIRO'S MENTAL CONDITION
BECAUSE
THE ANRI FROM THAT TIME...
WAS...
THE ANRI THAT SHIRO LOVED.
MOVE, ANRI!
YANK
I'LL PERFORM THE OPERATION WHILE IT'S POSSIBLE!
COUGH
SPURT

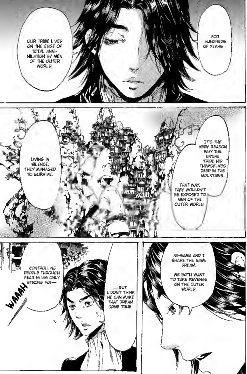

SEE!? YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
THE WHOLE PROCESS DID PLACE A GREAT BURDEN ON YOUR BODY!
COUGH
COUGH
ENOUGH! SIT THERE AND BE GOOD!!
I'LL START THE OPERATION RIGHT AWAY!
..What is this..
I can't see
Nilya's face.
...Huh?
What...
was I doing just now...?
I feel like I just had...
a long, awful dream...
SHIRO.
SHIRO!
SHIRO OOO!
Oh.
I remember now

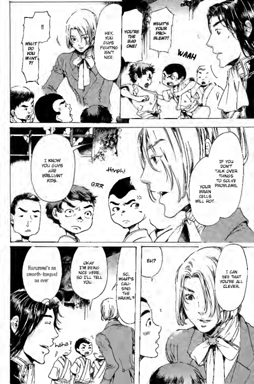

SHI-RO! WE'RE GOING!
Niiya's airplane was completed
'ES!
'es
The two of us will ride the plane...
...leave the Organization...
and fly to a far-away land

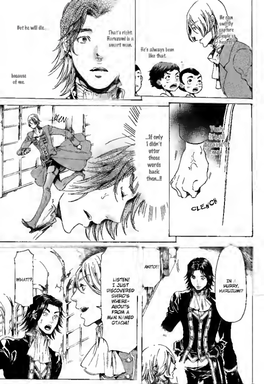

NOW, WHERE SHOULD WE GO?
WE CAN GO TO THE JUNGLES IN THE SOUTHERN COUNTRIES!
OH, RIGHT! SHIRO, YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HAVE A GREAT ADVENTURE IN A COUNTRY OF DESERT, RIGHT?
'ES!!
..to a country in our precious picture book.
I have always wanted to do this..
Always ..
Always ..

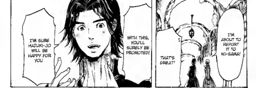

I'M SLICING HIM OPEN AND YET HE'S SMILING...
DISGUSTING
LOOKS LIKE THE ANESTHESIA IS WORKING VERY WELL
NAH, IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO WORK **THIS** WELL
WHAT A PATHETIC BOY.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF DREAM HE'S HAVING


IT'S ALREADY DUSK
WE'VE HAD SO MUCH FUN, HAVEN'T WE
YEAH THE LIVELINESS OF THE OUTER WORLD AWES ME
CAN WE, THE HA TRIBE...
REALLY WIN AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THE OUTER WORLD?
WHO KNOWS?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT NIISAMA IS DETERMINED TO DO IT.

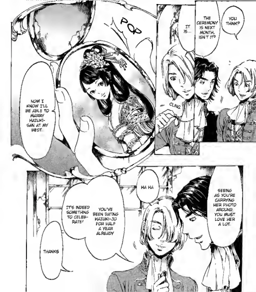

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS
OUR TRIBE LIVED ON THE EDGE OF TOTAL ANNIHILATION BY MEN OF THE OUTER WORLD.
IT'S THE VERY REASON WHY THE ENTIRE TRIBE HID THEMSELVES DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
THAT WAY, THEY WOULDN'T BE EXPOSED TO MEN OF THE OUTER WORLD
LIVING IN SILENCE, THEY MANAGED TO SURVIVE.
NII-SAMA AND I SHARE THE SAME DREAM.
WE BOTH WANT TO TAKE REVENGE ON THE OUTER WORLD
...BUT I DON'T THINK HE CAN MAKE THAT DREAM COME TRUE
CONTROLLING PEOPLE THROUGH FEAR IS HIS ONLY STRONG POI—
WAAAH

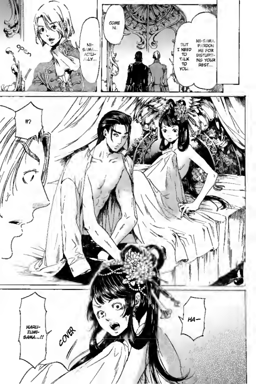

WHAT'S YOUR PRO-BLEM?!
YOU'RE THE BAD ONE!
WAAH
HEY, YOU GUYS FIGHTING ISN'T NICE
!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ?!
IF YOU DON'T TALK OVER THINGS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, YOUR BRAIN CELLS WILL ROT
Hmph!
GRR
I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE BRILLIANT KIDS.
I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE ALL CLEVER.
EH?
SO, WHAT'S CAU-SING THE BRAWL?
OKAY I'M BEING NICE HERE SO I'LL TELL YOU
Haruzumi's as smooth-tongued as ever
haha

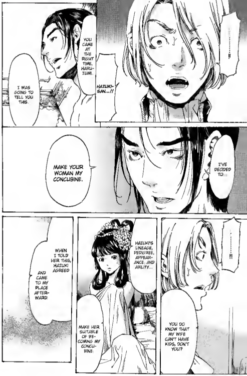

He can swiftly capture people's hearts
He's always been like that.
That's right. Haruzumi is a smart man.
But he will die...
because of me.
Yeah, it's all because of me.
CLENCH
...If only I didn't utter those words back then...!!
KUN
AKITO!!
IN A HURRY, HARUZUMI?
LISTEN! I JUST DISCOVERED SHIRO'S WHEREABOUTS FROM A MAN NAMED OTACHI!
WHAT!?

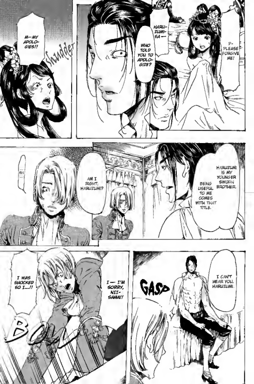

I'M ABOUT TO REPORT IT TO NI-SAMA!
THAT'S GREAT!
WITH THIS, YOU'LL SURELY BE PROMOTED!
I'M SURE HAZUKI-JO WILL BE HAPPY FOR YOU.

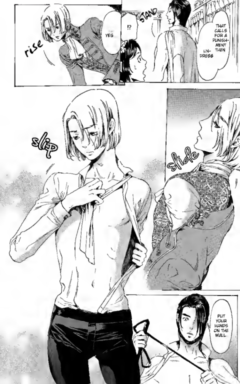
T/N The suffix "jo" means Miss / unmarried woman

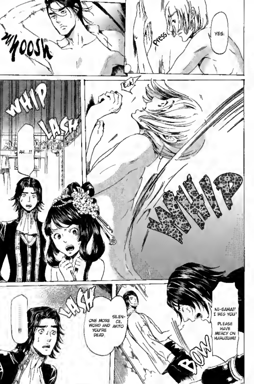

YOU THINK?
THE CEREMONY IS NEXT MONTH, ISN'T IT?
IT IS...
CLING
POP
NOW I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE TO MARRY HAZUKI-SAN AT MY BEST.
SEEING AS YOU'RE CARRYING HER PHOTO AROUND YOU MUST LOVE HER A LOT.
HA HA
YOU'VE BEEN DATING HAZUKI-JO FOR HALF A YEAR ALREADY
IT'S INDEED SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!
THANKS

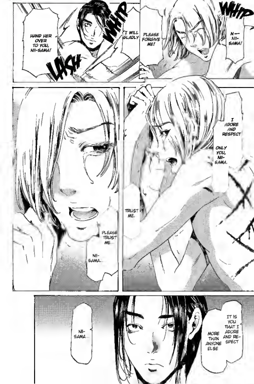

NII-SAMA. PARDON ME FOR DISTURBING YOUR REST...
BUT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
COME IN.
NII-SAMA... ACTUALLY...
open
!!?
HA—
HARUZUMI-SAMA...!!
COVER

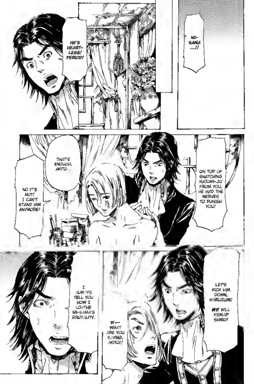

……!!
HAZUKI-SAN...!!
YOU CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME, HARUZUMI.
I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU THIS.
I'VE DECIDED TO...
MAKE YOUR WOMAN MY CONCUBINE.
……!!
YOU DO KNOW THAT MY WIFE CAN'T HAVE KIDS, DON'T YOU?
HAZUKI'S LINEAGE, PEDIGREE, APPEARANCE, AND ABILITY...
MAKE HER SUITABLE OF BECOMING MY CONCUBINE.
WHEN I TOLD HER THIS, HAZUKI AGREED
AND CAME TO MY PLACE AFTERWARD.

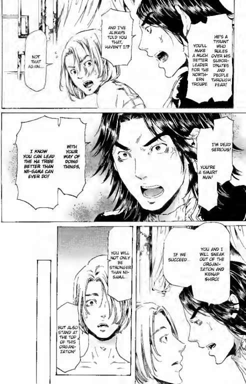

P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
HARUZUMI-SA—
WHO TOLD YOU TO APOLOGIZE?
M-MY APOLOGIES!!
Shudder
HARUZUMI IS MY YOUNGER SWORN BROTHER.
BEING USEFUL TO ME COMES WITH THAT TITLE.
AM I RIGHT, HARUZUMI?
...YES...
I CAN'T HEAR YOU, HARUZUMI.
GASP
I— I'M SORRY, NII-SAMA!!
I WAS SHOCKED SO I...!!
BOW

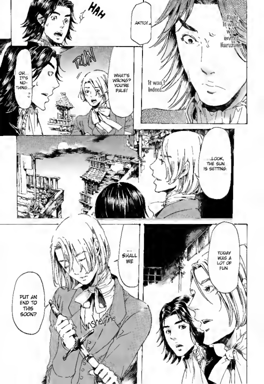

THAT CALLS FOR A PUNISHMENT THEN
UNDRESS
STAND
!?
YES
rise
slide
slip
PUT YOUR HANDS ON THE WALL.

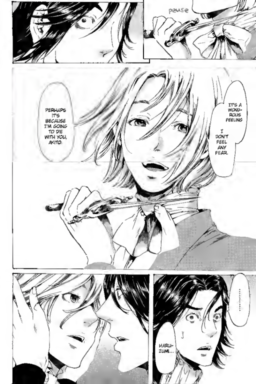

YES.
press
WHOOSH
EEK!
WHIP
WHIP
LASH
AH...!!
NI-SAMA!! I BEG YOU! PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON HARUZUMI!
BOW
SILENCE, AKITO.
ONE MORE WORD AND YOU'RE DEAD.
LASH
!

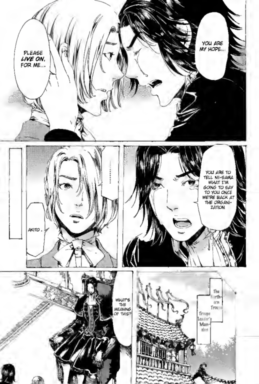

WHIP
N— NII-SAMA!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
WHIP
I WILL GLADLY
HAND HER OVER TO YOU, NII-SAMA!
LASH
I ADORE AND RESPECT
ONLY YOU, NII-SAMA.
TRUST ME.
PLEASE TRUST ME
NII-SAMA...
IT IS YOU THAT I ADORE AND RE-SPECT
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE
NII-SAMA...

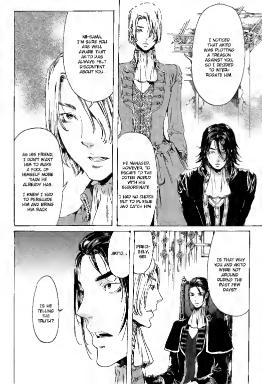

NII-SAMA ...!!
HE'S HEARTLESS! PERIOD!
ON TOP OF SNATCHING HAZUKI-JO FROM YOU, HE HAD THE NERVES TO PUNISH YOU!
THAT'S ENOUGH, AKITO
NO IT'S NOT! I CAN'T STAND HIM ANYMORE!
LET'S KICK HIM DOWN, HARUZUMI! WE WILL KIDNAP SHIRO!
W— WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AKITO!!
I ALWAYS TELL YOU HOW I LOATHE NII-SAMA'S BRUTALITY.

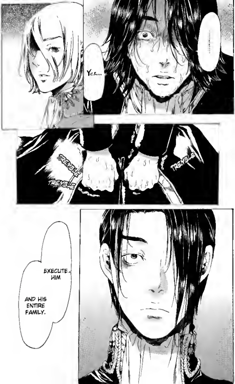

HE'S A TYRANT WHO RULES OVER HIS SUBORDINATES AND PEOPLE THROUGH FEAR!
YOU'LL MAKE A MUCH BETTER LEADER FOR THE NORTHERN TROUPE.
AND I'VE ALWAYS TOLD YOU THAT, HAVEN'T I!?
NOT THAT AGAIN...
I'M DEAD SERIOUS!
YOU'RE A SMART MAN!
WITH YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS,
I KNOW YOU CAN LEAD THE HA TRIBE BETTER THAN NII-SAMA CAN EVER DO!
YOU AND I WILL SNEAK OUT OF THE ORGANIZATION AND KIDNAP SHIRO!
IF WE SUCCEED...
YOU WILL NOT ONLY BE STRONGER THAN NII-SAMA...
BUT ALSO STAND AT THE TOP OF THIS ORGANIZATION!

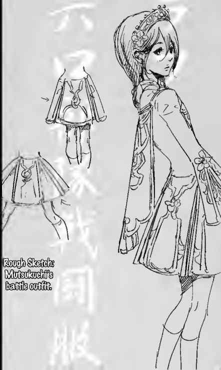

Right. It was I who invited Haruzumi!
It was I indeed...
AKITO!
HAH
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE PALE!
RUN
OH... IT'S NO-THING...
...LOOK, THE SUN IS SETTING.
TODAY WAS A LOT OF FUN
SHALL WE
PUT AN END TO THIS SOON?
Unsheathe


pause
IT'S A WONDROUS FEELING
I DON'T FEEL ANY FEAR.
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DIE WITH YOU, AKITO.
....
HARUZUMI...

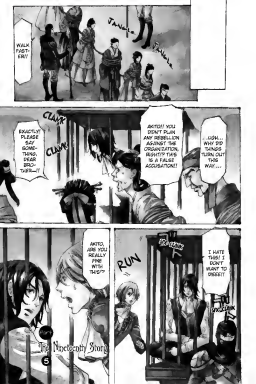

YOU ARE MY HOPE...
PLEASE *LIVE ON*, FOR ME...
YOU ARE TO TELL NII-SAMA WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY TO YOU ONCE WE'RE BACK AT THE ORGANIZATION
......
AKITO.
The Northern Troupe Troupe Leader's Mansion
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?


I NOTICED THAT AKITO WAS PLOTTING A TREASON AGAINST YOU, SO I DECIDED TO INTERROGATE HIM
NII-SAMA, I'M SURE YOU ARE WELL AWARE THAT AKITO HAS ALWAYS FELT DISCONTENT ABOUT YOU.
HE MANAGED, HOWEVER, TO ESCAPE TO THE OUTER WORLD WITH HIS SUBORDINATE
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PURSUE AND CATCH HIM
AS HIS FRIEND, I DON'T WANT HIM TO MAKE A FOOL OF HIMSELF MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS.
I KNEW I HAD TO PERSUADE HIM AND BRING HIM BACK
IS THAT WHY YOU AND AKITO WERE NOT AROUND DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS?
PRECISELY, SIR
AKITO.
IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH?


......
Yes...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
EXECUTE HIM
AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY.



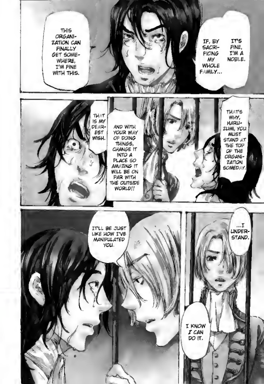
Rough Sketch: Mutsukuchi's battle outfit.

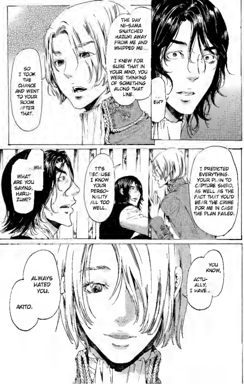

JANGLE
JANGLE
WALK FASTER!!
...UGH... WHY DID THINGS TURN OUT THIS WAY...
AKITO!! YOU DIDN'T PLAN ANY REBELLION AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION, RIGHT!? THIS IS A FALSE ACCUSATION!!
CLANK
CLANK
EXACTLY! PLEASE SAY SOMETHING, DEAR BROTHER—!!
I HATE THIS! I DON'T WANT TO DIEEE!!
SFX: CLANK
SFX: CLANK
RUN
AKITO, ARE YOU REALLY FINE WITH THIS!?
Part 5
The Nineteenth Story

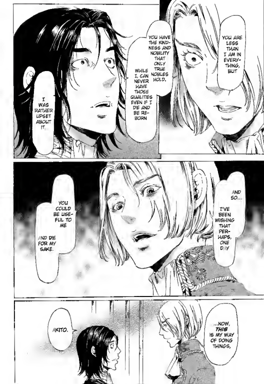
Part 5

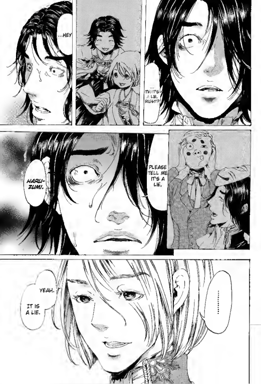
The Nineteenth Story

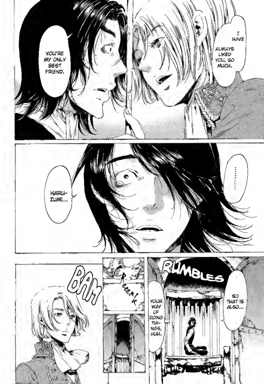
WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS

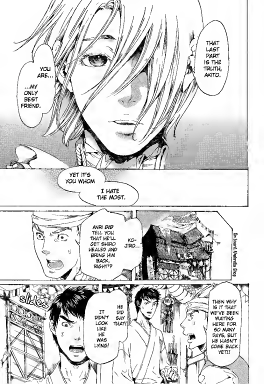

IT'S FINE, I'M A NOBLE.
IF, BY SACRIFICING MY WHOLE FAMILY...
THIS ORGANIZATION CAN FINALLY GO SOMEWHERE, I'M FINE WITH THIS.
THAT'S WHY, HARUZUMI, YOU MUST STAND AT THE TOP OF THE ORGANIZATION SOMEDAY.
AND WITH YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS, CHANGE IT INTO A PLACE SO AMAZING IT WILL BE ON PAR WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD!!
THAT IS MY DEAREST WISH.
...I UNDERSTAND.
I KNOW I CAN DO IT.
IT'LL BE JUST LIKE HOW I'VE MANIPULATED YOU.

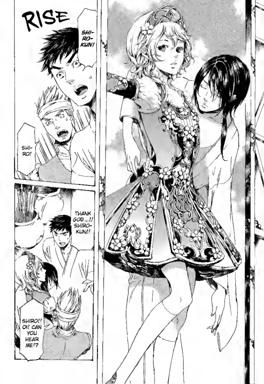

THE DAY NII-SAMA SNATCHED HAZUKI AWAY FROM ME AND WHIPPED ME...
I KNEW FOR SURE THAT IN YOUR MIND, YOU WERE THINKING OF SOMETHING ALONG THAT LINE.
SO I TOOK THE CHANCE AND WENT TO YOUR ROOM AFTER THAT.
EH?
I PREDICTED EVERYTHING. YOUR PLAN TO CAPTURE SHIRO, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT YOU'D BEAR THE CRIME FOR ME IN CASE THE PLAN FAILED.
WH WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HARUZUMI?
IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR PERSONALITY ALL TOO WELL.
YOU KNOW, ACTUALLY, I HAVE.
ALWAYS HATED YOU.
AKITO.

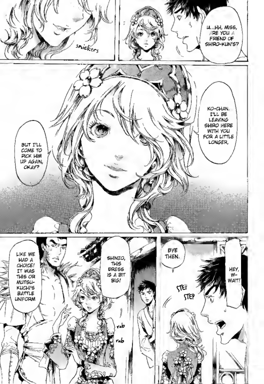

YOU ARE LESS THAN I AM IN EVERYTHING, BUT
YOU HAVE THE KINDNESS AND NOBILITY THAT ONLY TRUE NOBLES HOLD.
WHILE I, CAN NEVER HAVE THOSE QUALITIES EVEN IF I DIE AND BE REBORN
I WAS RATHER UPSET ABOUT IT.
AND SO... I'VE BEEN WISHING THAT PERHAPS, ONE DAY
YOU COULD BE USEFUL TO ME AND DIE FOR MY SAKE.
...NOW, *THIS* IS MY WAY OF DOING THINGS,
AKITO.

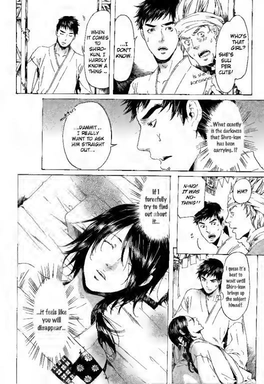

...HEY
... THAT'S A LIE, RIGHT?
HARU-ZUMI.
PLEASE TELL ME IT'S A LIE.
YEAH.
IT IS A LIE.
......

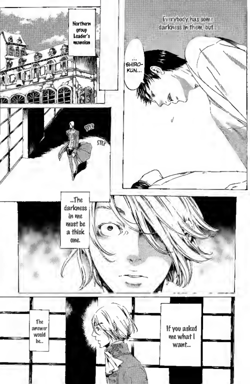

I HAVE ALWAYS LIKED YOU, SO MUCH.
YOU'RE MY ONLY BEST FRIEND.
……
HARUZUMI...
RUMBLES
SO THAT IS ALSO...
YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS, HUH.
CREEEAK
BAM


THAT LAST PART IS THE TRUTH, AKITO.
YOU ARE... ...MY ONLY BEST FRIEND.
YET IT'S YOU WHOM
I HATE THE MOST.
On board: Umbrella Shop
KO-JIRO...
ANRI *DID* TELL YOU THAT HE'LL GET SHIRO HEALED AND BRING HIM BACK, RIGHT?
THEN WHY IS IT THAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR SO MANY DAYS, BUT HE HASN'T COME BACK YET!!
HE DID SAY THAT!
IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE WAS LYING!
slides

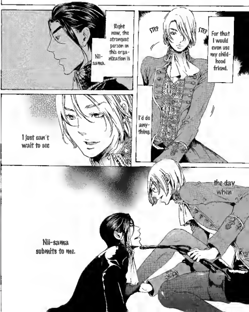

SHI-RO-KUN!
RISE
SHI-RO!
THANK GOD..!! SHIRO-KUN!!
SHIRO!! OI! CAN YOU HEAR ME!?

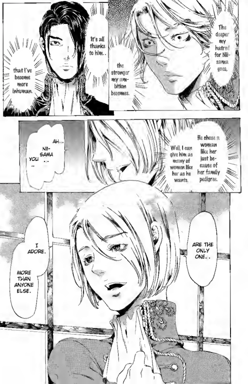

U...UH, MISS, ARE YOU A FRIEND OF SHIRO-KUN'S?
snickers
KO-CHAN. I'LL BE LEAVING SHIRO HERE WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE LONGER,
BUT I'LL COME TO PICK HIM UP AGAIN, OKAY?
HEY, W-WAIT!
BYE THEN.
STEP STEP
SHINZO, THIS DRESS IS A BIT BIG!
LIKE WE HAD A CHOICE! IT WAS THIS OR MUTSU-KUCHI'S BATTLE UNIFORM
rub rub

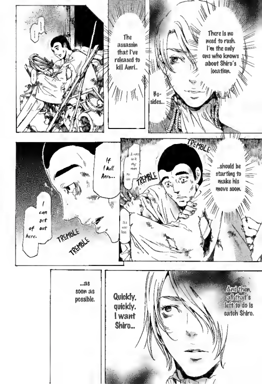

WHO'S THAT GIRL? SHE'S SUU PER CUTE!
Is she a foreigner?
...I DON'T KNOW...
WHEN IT COMES TO SHIRO-KUN, I HARDLY KNOW A THING ..
What exactly is the darkness that Shiro-kun has been carrying..!?
mutters
...DAMMIT.. I REALLY WANT TO ASK HIM STRAIGHT OUT...
HM?
N-NO! IT WAS NO-THING!!
I guess it's best to wait until Shiro-kun brings up the subject himself.
If I forcefully try to find out about it...
...it feels like you will disappear...

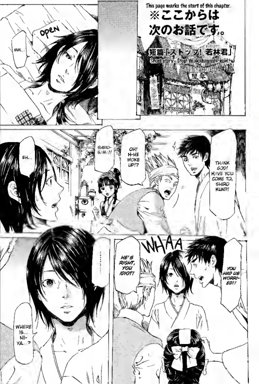

Everybody has some darkness in them, but...
... SHIRO-KUN...
Northern group Leader's mansion
STEP
STEP
...The darkness in me must be a thick one.
If you asked me what I want...
The answer would be...

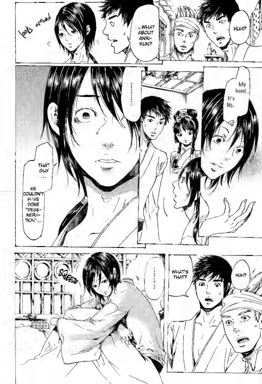
ABSOLUTE POWER

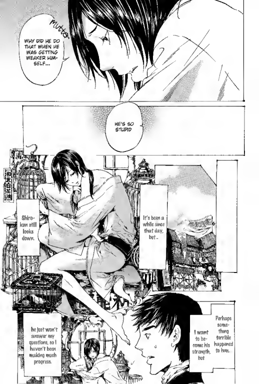

Right now, the strongest person in this organization is
Nii-sama.
STEP
STEP
For that I would even use my childhood friend.
I'd do anything.
I just can't wait to see
the day when
Nii-sama submits to me.

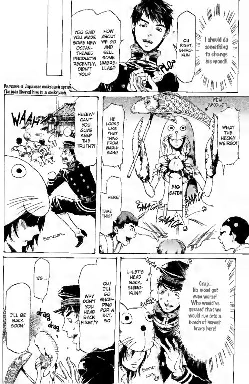

The deeper my hatred for Nii-sama goes,
the stronger my ambition becomes.
It's all thanks to him..
that I've become more inhuman.
He chose a woman like her just because of her family pedigree.
Well, I can give him as many of women like her as he wants.
AH... NII-SAMA...
YOU..
ARE THE ONLY ONE..
I ADORE.
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.


There is no need to rush. I'm the only ons who knows about Shiro's location.
Be-sides...
The assassin that I've released to kill Anri...
...should be starting to make his move soon.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
...I won't do it any-more
no use
It's use-less
If I kill Anri...
I can get out of here.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
And then, all that's left to do is catch Shiro.
Quickly, quickly, I want Shiro...
...as soon as possible.

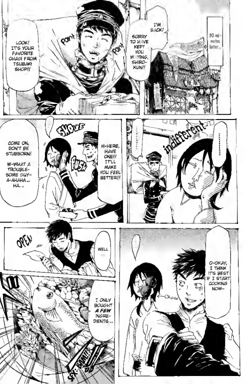

This page marks the start of this chapter.
※ここからは次のお話です。
短篇「ストップ！ 若林君」
Short story: Stop! Wakabayashi-kun!
OPEN
MM...
THANK GOD! HAVE YOU COME TO, SHIRO KUN?!
OH! H-HE WOKE UP!?
SHIRO-SAMA!!
EH...
YOU HAD US WORRI-ED!!
WHAA
HE'S RIGHT, YOU IDIOT!
......
WHERE IS... NII-YA...?

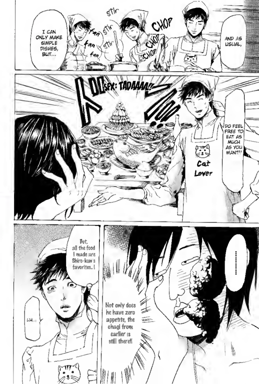

HUH?
...WHAT ABOUT ANRI-KUN?
looks around
My hand... It's big..
....
THAT GUY ...
HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE "DEGE-NERA-TION"...
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
....
SQUEEZE

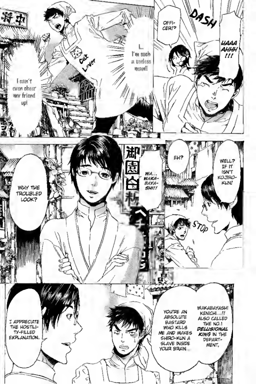

mutter
WHY DID HE DO THAT WHEN HE WAS GETTING WEAKER HIMSELF...
HE'S SO STUPID
It's been a while since that day, but..
Shiro-kun still looks down.
Perhaps something terrible happened to him.
I want to become his strength, but
he just won't answer my questions, so I haven't been making much progress.

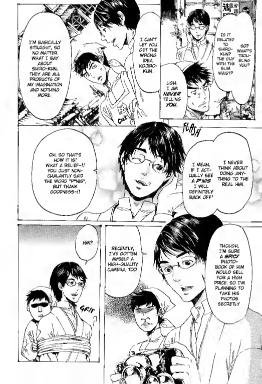

I should do something to change his mood!!
OH RIGHT, SHIRO-KUN
HOW ABOUT WE GO AND SELL SOME UMBRELLAS?
YOU SAID YOU MADE SOME NEW OCEAN-THEMED PRODUCTS RECENTLY, DIDN'T YOU?
PLOP
NEW PRODUCT
WHAT THE HECK!! WEIRDO!
HE LOOKS LIKE THAT THING FROM BARU-SAN!!
BIG CATCH
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
HERE!
TAKE THIS!
HEEEY!! CAN'T YOU GUYS KEEP THE TRUTH?!
WAAH
Barusan...
Crap... His mood got even worse!! Who would've guessed that we would run into a bunch of honest brats here!
L-LET'S HEAD BACK, SHIRO-KUN!!
sweat
sweat
Baru-san
OH! I'LL GO SHOPPING FOR A BIT, SO
WHY DON'T YOU HEAD BACK FIRST!?
'ES...
drag drag
I'LL BE BACK SOON!

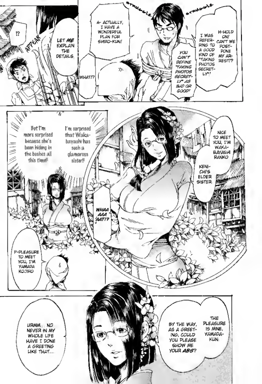
Barusan: a Japanese cockroach spray
The kids likened him to a cockroach

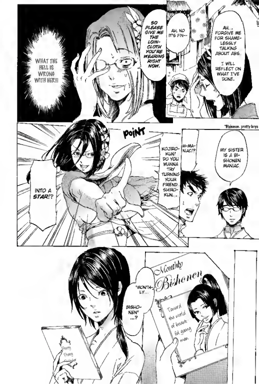

30 minutes later..
I'M BACK!
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING, SHIRO-KUN!!
Pant
Pant
LOOK! IT'S YOUR FAVORITE OHAGI FROM TSUBAKI SHOP!!
......
indifferent
......
H-HERE, HAVE ONE!! IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!!
SHOVE
PUSH
COME ON, DON'T BE STUBBORN!
W-WHAT A TROUBLESOME GUY- A-AHAHA.. HA...
O-OKAY, I THINK IT'S BEST IF I START COOKING NOW~
←Ohagi
WELL
OPEN
I ONLY BOUGHT A FEW INGREDIENTS..
SFX: BAM!!


I CAN ONLY MAKE SIMPLE DISHES, BUT...
fan
fan
fan
stir
stir
stir
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
AND AS USUAL,
SFX: TADAAAA!!
DO FEEL FREE TO EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!!
Cat Lover
But, all the food I made are Shiro-kun's favorites..!
Uh...
......
Not only does he have zero appetite, the ohagi from earlier is still there!!

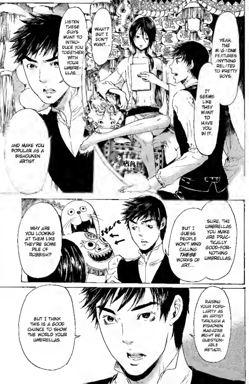

OFFI-CER!?
DASH
UAAA AHHH !!!
将中
I... I'm such a useless man!!
Cat Lover
I can't even cheer my friend up!
WELL? IF IT ISN'T KOJIRO-KUN!
EH?
STOP
WA... WAKABAYASHI!!
御園白粉
WHY THE TROUBLED LOOK?
WAKABAYASHI KENICHI...!! ALSO CALLED THE NO.1 **DELUSIONAL KING** IN THE DEPARTMENT,
YOU'RE AN ABSOLUTE BASTARD WHO KILLS ME AND MAKES SHIRO-KUN A SLAVE INSIDE YOUR BRAIN...
I APPRECIATE THE HOSTILITY-FILLED EXPLANATION.

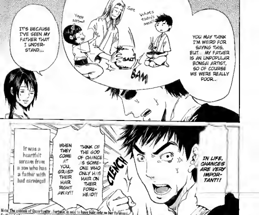

SO? WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU?
IS IT RELATED TO SHIRO-KUN? THE GUY WITH THE SLIM WAIST?
UGH. I AM **NEVER** TELLING **YOU**.
I CAN'T LET YOU GET THE WRONG IDEA, KOJIRO-KUN.
I'M BASICALLY STRAIGHT, SO NO MATTER WHAT I SAY ABOUT SHIRO-KUN, THEY ARE ALL PRODUCTS OF MY IMAGINATION AND NOTHING MORE.
Cat
FLASH
I NEVER THINK ABOUT DOING ANYTHING TO THE REAL HIM.
I MEAN, IF I ACTUALLY SEE A **P*NIS** I WILL DEFINITELY BACK OFF
OH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS! WHAT A RELIEF~!! YOU JUST NONCHALANTLY SAID THE WORD "P*NIS", BUT THANK GOODNESS~!!
THOUGH, I'M SURE A **SPICY** PHOTO-BOOK OF HIM WOULD SELL FOR A HIGH PRICE. SO I'M PLANNING TO TAKE HIS PHOTOS SECRETLY
RECENTLY, I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF A HIGH-QUALITY CAMERA, TOO
HM?
GRIP


STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
H-HOLD ON! CAN'T WE POSTPONE MY ARREST!?
I WAS REFERRING TO A GOOD KIND OF "TAKING PHOTOS SECRETLY"!
YOU CAN'T DEFINE "TAKING PHOTOS SECRETLY" AS BAD OR GOOD!
A- ACTUALLY, I HAVE A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR SHIRO-KUN!
WHAT!?
LET *ME* EXPLAIN THE DETAILS
APPEAR
!?
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M WAKABAYASHI RANKO
KENICHI'S ELDER SISTER
WHAAAAAAAT!?
I'm surprised that Wakabayashi has such a glamorous sister!!
But I'm more surprised because she's been hiding in the bushes all this time!!
P-PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, I'M YAMADA KOJIRO
THE PLEASURE IS MINE, YAMADA-KUN.
BY THE WAY, AS A GREETING, COULD YOU PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR *ABS*?
URMM... NO NEVER IN MY WHOLE LIFE HAVE I DONE A GREETING LIKE THAT...

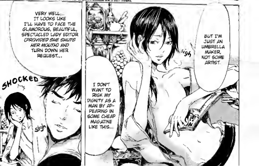

AH... FORGIVE ME FOR SHAMELESSLY TALKING ABOUT ABS.
I WILL REFLECT ON WHAT I'VE DONE.
AH, NO IT'S FIN--
SO PLEASE GIVE ME THE LOINCLOTH YOU'RE WEARING RIGHT NOW.
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH HER!!!
MY SISTER IS A BISHONEN MANIAC
M-MANIAC!?
KOJIRO-KUN! DO YOU WANNA TRY TURNING YOUR FRIEND SHIRO-KUN...
POINT
INTO A STAR!?
Monthly Bishonen
Toward the world of beautiful young men.
"MONTHLY... BISHONEN" ...?
Pretty Pretty Publisher

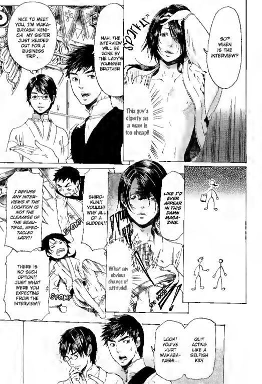
*Bishonen: pretty boys

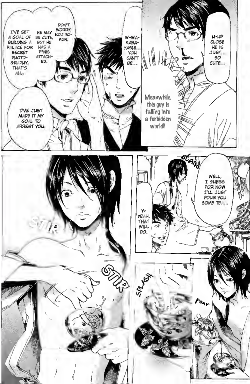

YEAH. THE MAGAZINE FEATURES ANYTHING RELATED TO PRETTY BOYS.
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WANT TO HAVE YOU IN IT.
WHAT? BUT I DON'T WANT...
LISTEN THESE GUYS WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TOGETHER WITH YOUR UMBRELLAS...
AND MAKE YOU POPULAR AS A BISHOUNEN ARTIST...
SURE, THE UMBRELLAS YOU MAKE ARE PRACTICALLY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING UMBRELLAS.
BUT I GUESS PEOPLE WON'T MIND CALLING *THESE* WORKS OF ART...
stare
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THEM LIKE THEY'RE SOME PILE OF RUBBISH?
RAISING YOUR POPULARITY AS AN ARTIST THROUGH A BISHONEN MAGAZINE MIGHT BE A QUESTIONABLE METHOD,
BUT I THINK THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO SHOW THE WORLD YOUR UMBRELLAS...

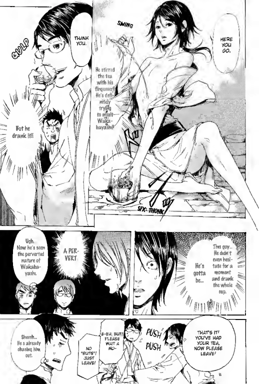

YOU MAY THINK I'M WEIRD FOR SAYING THIS, BUT... MY FATHER IS AN UNPOPULAR BONSAI ARTIST, SO OF COURSE WE WERE REALLY POOR...
What's today's meal?
Salt
Yayyy salt~!!
SALT
BAM
IT'S BECAUSE I'VE SEEN MY FATHER THAT I UNDERSTAND...
IN LIFE, CHANCES ARE VERY IMPORTANT!!
CLENCH
THINK OF THE GOD OF CHANCE IS SOMEONE WHO ONLY HAS HAIR ON THEIR FOREHEAD!!
WHEN THEY COME AT YOU, GRASP THEIR HAIR RIGHT AWAY!!
It was a heartfelt scream from a son who has a father with bad earnings!!

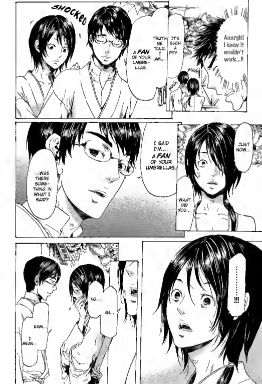
Note: The goddess of Opportunity, Fortuna, is said to have hair only on her forehead. So if we let her pass we won't be able to catch her anymore because she is bald behind.

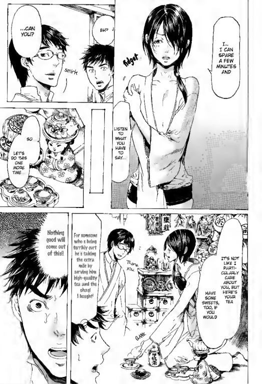

BUT I'M JUST AN UMBRELLA MAKER, NOT SOME ARTIST.
Sigh
I DON'T WANT TO RISK MY DIGNITY AS A MAN BY APPEARING IN SOME CHEAP MAGAZINE LIKE THIS...
VERY WELL... IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO FACE THE GLAMOROUS, BEAUTIFUL, SPECTACLED LADY EDITOR (PROVIDED SHE SHUTS HER MOUTH) AND TURN DOWN HER REQUEST...
SHOCKED
Sigh

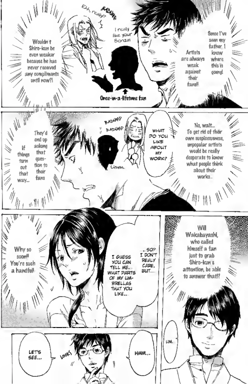

SPARKLE
SO? WHEN IS THE INTERVIEW?
This guy's dignity as a man is too cheap!!
NAH, THE INTERVIEW WILL BE DONE BY THE LADY'S YOUNGER BROTHER
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M WAKABAYASHI KENICHI. MY SISTER JUST HEADED OUT FOR A BUSINESS TRIP.
LIKE I'D EVER APPEAR IN THIS DAMN MAGAZINE.
What an obvious change of attitude!!
SPA GOOSH
SHIRO-KUN!! YOUUU!! WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
I REFUSE ANY INTERVIEWS IF THE LOCATION IS NOT THE CLEAVAGE OF THE BEAUTIFUL, SPECTACLED LADY!!
STOMP
THERE IS NO SUCH OPTION!! JUST WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING FROM THE INTERVIEW!!
STOMP
QUIT ACTING LIKE A SELFISH KID!
LOOK! YOU'VE HURT WAKABAYASHI...

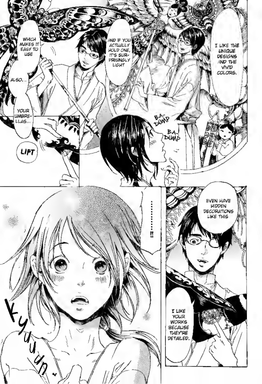

W-WA-KABAYASHI... YOU CAN'T BE...
DON'T WORRY, KOJIRO-KUN.
HE MAY BE CUTE, BUT HE HAS A P*NIS ATTACHED.
I'VE SET A GOAL OF BUILDING A PALACE FOR SECRET PHOTOGRAPHY, THAT'S ALL.
I'VE JUST MADE IT MY GOAL TO ARREST YOU.
U-UP CLOSE HE IS JUST SO CUTE...
Meanwhile, this guy is falling into a forbidden world!!
stand
WELL, I GUESS FOR NOW I'LL JUST POUR YOU SOME TEA...
Y-YEAH, THAT WILL DO.
Pour
SPLASH
STIR
STIR

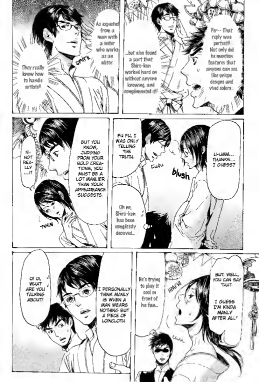

HERE YOU GO.
SWING
He stirred the tea with his fingeeeer!! He's definitely trying to insult Wakabayashi!!
THANK YOU.
GULP
But he drank it!!
SFX: THONK
This guy... He didn't even hesitate for a moment and drank the whole cup.
He's gotta be...
A PERVERT.
Ugh. Now he's seen the perverted nature of Wakabayashi.
THAT'S IT! YOU'VE HAD YOUR TEA, NOW PLEASE LEAVE!
PUSH
PUSH
E-EH, BUT! PLEASE WAIT A MO-
NO "BUTS"! JUST LEAVE!
Sheesh... He's already chasing him out.

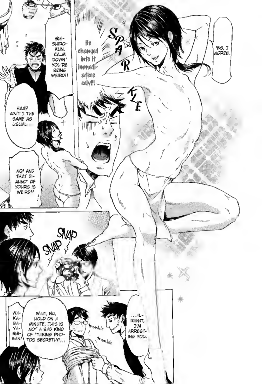

Aaargh!! I knew it wouldn't work...!!
push
push
IT'S SUCH A PITY
TRUTH BE TOLD, I AM..
A FAN OF YOUR UMBRELLAS.
SHOCKED
JUST NOW...
WHAT DID YOU..
I SAID I'M... A FAN OF YOUR UMBRELLAS.
...WAS THERE SOMETHING IN WHAT I SAID?
......!!!
NO...
AH...
ERM...
I MEAN...

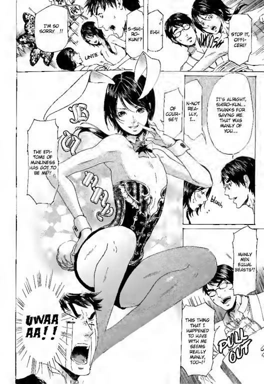

I.. I CAN SPARE A FEW MINUTES AND
fidget
LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...
EH?
...CAN YOU!?
smirk
SO LET'S DO THIS ONE MORE TIME...
IT'S NOT LIKE I PARTICULARLY CARE ABOUT YOU, BUT HERE'S YOUR TEA
HAVE SOME SWEETS, TOO, IF YOU WOULD
Thank you.
CLANK
For someone who's being terribly curt he's taking the extra mile by serving him high-quality tea and the ohagi I bought!
Nothing good will come out of this!!

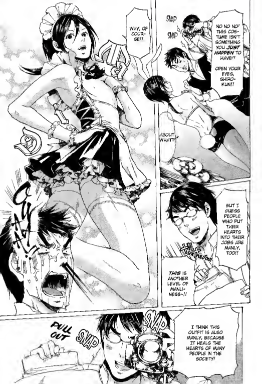

Since I've seen my father, I know where this is going!
Artists are always weak against their fans!!
I really like your Bonzai
BADUMP
Ehh, really?
Wouldn't Shiro-kun be even weaker because he has never received any compliments until now?!
Once-in-a-lifetime fan
No, wait... To get rid of their own suspiciousness, unpopular artists would be really desperate to know what people think about their works..
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT MY WORK?
BADUMP
BADUMP
Umm..
They'd end up asking that question to their fans
If things turn out that way...
Will Wakabayashi, who called himself a fan just to grab Shiro-kun's attention, be able to answer that!?
..SO? I DON'T REALY CARE, BUT....
I GUESS YOU CAN TELL ME. WHAT PARTS OF MY UMBRELLAS THAT YOU LIKE..
Why so soon!! You're such a handful!
UM.
HMM..
LOOKS
LET'S SEE...

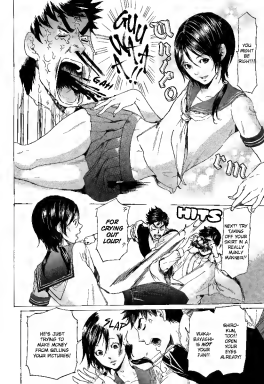

I LIKE THE UNIQUE DESIGNS AND THE VIVID COLORS.
AND IF YOU ACTUALLY HOLD ONE, IT'S SURPRISINGLY LIGHT
WHICH MAKES IT EASY TO USE
ALSO...
YOUR UMBRELLAS...
LIFT
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
EVEN HAVE HIDDEN DECORATIONS LIKE THIS
I LIKE YOUR WORKS BECAUSE THEY'RE DETAILED.
......!!
Kyuuun~

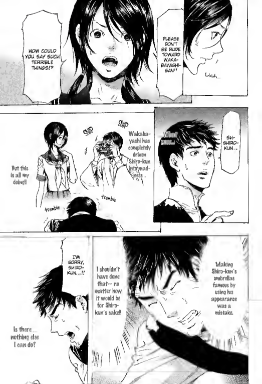

Per-- That reply was perfect!! Not only did he mention features that anyone can see like unique designs and vivid colors...
...but also found a part that Shiro-kun worked hard on without anyone knowing, and complimented it!!
As expected from a man with a sister who works as an editor.
Smirk
They really know how to handle artists!!
U-UMM... THANKS... I GUESS?
blush
FU FU, I WAS ONLY TELLING THE TRUTH.
Fufu
Oh me, Shiro-kun has been completely deceived..
BUT YOU KNOW, JUDGING FROM YOUR BOLD CREATIONS, YOU MUST BE A LOT MANLIER THAN YOUR APPEARANCE SUGGESTS.
N-NOT REALLY ...!!
TURN
BUT, WELL, YOU CAN SAY THAT.
I GUESS I'M KINDA MANLY AFTER ALL!
HMPH!
He's trying to play it cool in front of his fan..
I PERSONALLY THINK MANLY IS WHEN A MAN WEARS NOTHING BUT A PIECE OF LOINCLOTH
OI OI, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!!

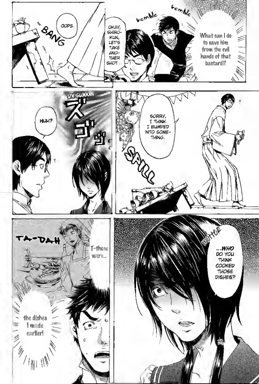

'ES, I AGREE.
SPARKLE
He changed into it immediatece eely!!!
SHI-SHIRO-KUN, CALM DOWN! YOU'RE BEING WEIRD!!
HAA? AIN'T I THE SAME AS USUAL...
NO! AND THAT DIALECT OF YOURS IS WEIRD!!
SNAP
SNAP
...ALRIGHT, I'M ARRESTING YOU.
tremble
tremble
WAIT, NO, HOLD ON A MINUTE. THIS IS NOT A BAD KIND OF "TAKING PHOTOS SECRETLY"...
WAKABAYASHI-SAN!

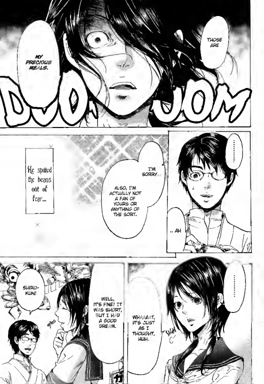

STOP IT, OFFI-CER!!
WHOOSH
EHH
S-SHI-RO-KUN!?
I'M SO SORRY...!!
UNTIE
IT'S ALRIGHT, SHIRO-KUN... THANKS FOR SAVING ME. THAT WAS MANLY OF YOU...
N-NOT REA-LLY, I...
OF COUR-SE!!
blush
BUNNY
THE EPI-TOME OF MANLINESS HAS GOT TO BE ME!!
MANLY MEN EQUAL BEASTS?!
THIS THING THAT I HAPPENED TO HAVE WITH ME SEEMS REALLY MANLY, TOO~!!
PULL OUT
UWAAAA!!

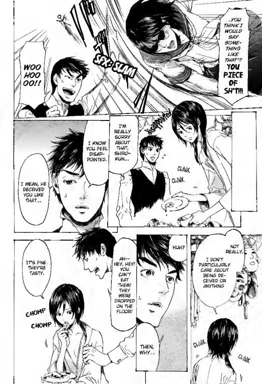

SNAP
SNAP
NO NO NO! THIS COSTUME ISN'T SOMETHING YOU ***JUST HAPPEN*** TO HAVE!!
OPEN YOUR EYES, SHIRO-KUN!!
ABOUT WHAT?
WHY, OF COURSE!!
BUT I GUESS PEOPLE WHO PUT THEIR HEARTS INTO THEIR JOBS ARE MANLY, TOO!!
PULL OUT
THIS IS ANOTHER LEVEL OF MANLINESS~!!
GYAAA!!
I THINK THIS OUTFIT IS ALSO MANLY, BECAUSE IT HEALS THE HEARTS OF MANY PEOPLE IN THE SOCIETY!
SNAP
SNAP
PULL OUT

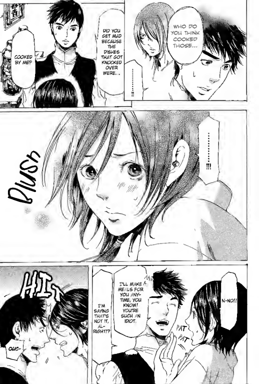

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT!!
GUUWAA!!
GAH
Unifo
rm
NEXT! TRY TAKING OFF YOUR SKIRT IN A REALLY MANLY MANNER!!
HITS
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
SHIRO-KUN, TOO!! OPEN YOUR EYES ALREADY!
WAKABAYASHI IS *NOT* YOUR FAN!!
SLAP
HE'S JUST TRYING TO MAKE MONEY FROM SELLING YOUR PICTURES!

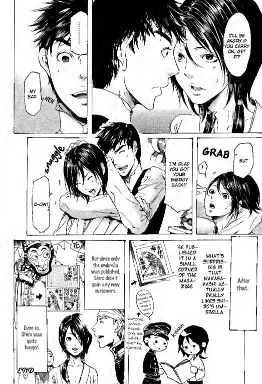

PLEASE DON'T BE RUDE TOWARD WAKABAYASHI-SAN!!
Uah..
HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS!?
SH-SHIRO-KUN...
What now...
SNAP
SNAP
Wakabayashi has completely driven Shiro-kun into madness.
But this is all my doing!!
tremble
tremble
Making Shiro-kun's umbrellas famous by using his appearance was a mistake.
I shouldn't have done that-- no matter how it would be for Shiro-kun's sake!!
I'M SORRY, SHIRO-KUN...!!
Is there... nothing else I can do?


tremble
tremble
What can I do to save him from the evil hands of that bastard!?
OKAY, SHIRO-KUN, LET'S TAKE ANOTHER SHOT
OOPS.
BANG
SORRY, I THINK I BUMPED INTO SOMETHING.
SPILL
SFX: GLOOOM
ズゴゴ
HUH?
MUTTER
...WHO DO YOU THINK COOKED THOSE DISHES?
T-those were...
TA-DAH
the dishes I made earlier!

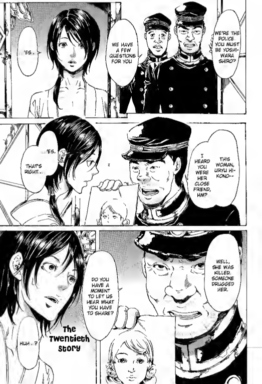

THOSE ARE
MY PRECIOUS MEALS.
DOOM
......
I'M SORRY
ALSO, I'M ACTUALLY NOT A FAN OF YOURS OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.
.. AH
He spilled the beans out of fear...
......
WHAAAAT, IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT, HUH.
SIGH
WELL, IT'S FINE! IT WAS SHORT, BUT I HAD A GOOD DREAM.
grins
SHIRO-KUN!


.YOU THINK I WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!? YOU PIECE OF SH*T!!!
SFX: SLAM
WOO HOO OO!!
disappointed
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT, SHIRO-KUN...
CLANK
CLANK
I KNOW YOU FEEL DISAPPOINTED.
I MEAN, HE DECEIVED YOU LIKE THAT..
NOT REALLY..
I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE ABOUT BEING DECEIVED OR ANYTHING
HUH?
CLANK
CLANK
AH-- HEY, HEY! YOU CAN'T EAT THEM! THEY WERE DROPPED ON THE FLOOR!
THEN, WHY...
IT'S FINE. THEY'RE TASTY.
CHOMP
CHOMP

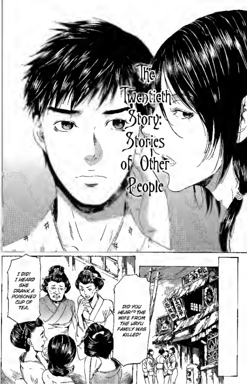

WHO DO YOU THINK COOKED THOSE...
......!!
DID YOU GET MAD BECAUSE THE DISHES THAT GOT KNOCKED OVER WERE...
COOKED BY ME?
......!!!
Blush
N-NO!!
PAT PAT
AHA
I'LL MAKE MEALS FOR YOU ANYTIME, YOU KNOW! YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.
I'M SAYING THAT'S NOT IT, ALRIGHT!?
HIT
OUC-

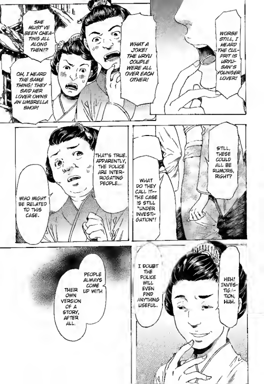

I'LL BE ANGRY IF YOU CARRY ON, GET IT?
......
MY BAD
HEH
GRAB
!
BUT
I'M GLAD YOU GOT YOUR ENERGY BACK!!
snuggle
O-OW!!
After that
WHAT'S SURPRISING IS THAT WAKABAYASHI ACTUALLY REALLY LIKES SHIRO'S UMBRELLA
HE PUBLISHED IT IN A SMALL CORNER OF THE MAGAZINE
Wakabayashi is surprisingly a good guy
Wrong, Wakabayashi only did whatever he wanted.
kyuuun
花
But since only the umbrella was published, Shiro didn't gain any new customers.
Even so, Shiro was quite happy!
END

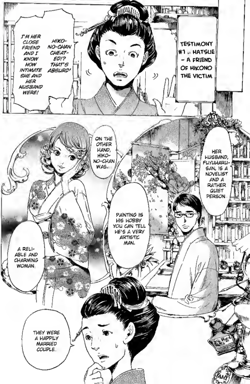
The Twentieth Story

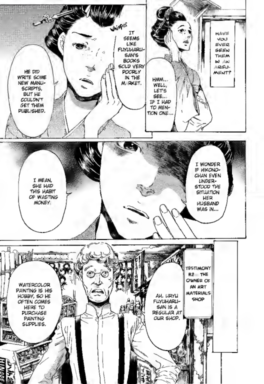

WE'RE THE POLICE. YOU MUST BE YOSHIWARA SHIRO?
WE HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU
'ES..
THIS WOMAN, URYU HIKONO--
I HEARD YOU WERE HER CLOSE FRIEND, HM?
'ES.
THAT'S RIGHT...
WELL, SHE WAS KILLED. SOMEONE DRUGGED HER.
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT TO LET US HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SHARE?
HUH..?

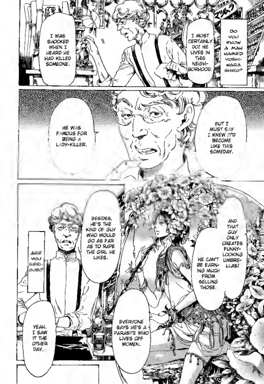
The Twentieth Story: Stories of Other People

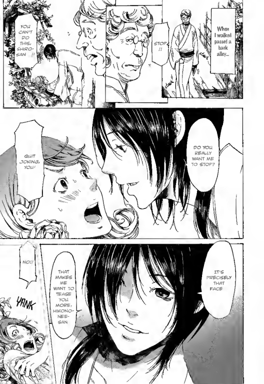

DID YOU HEAR!? THE WIFE FROM THE URYU FAMILY WAS KILLED!
I DID! I HEARD SHE DRANK A POISONED CUP OF TEA.

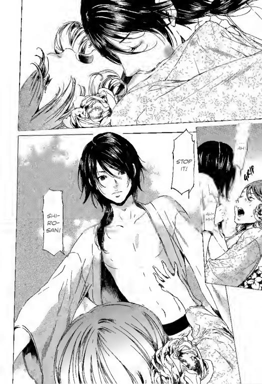

WORSE STILL, I HEARD THE CULPRIT IS URYU-SAN'S YOUNGER LOVER!
WHAT A JOKE! THE URYU COUPLE WERE ALL OVER EACH OTHER!
SHE MUST'VE BEEN CHEATING ALL ALONG THEN!?
OH, I HEARD THE SAME THING! THEY SAID HER LOVER OWNS AN UMBRELLA SHOP!
STILL, THESE COULD ALL BE RUMORS, RIGHT?
WHAT DO THEY CALL IT-- THE CASE IS STILL "UNDER INVESTIGATION"!
THAT'S TRUE. APPARENTLY, THE POLICE ARE INTERROGATING PEOPLE...
WHO MIGHT BE RELATED TO THIS CASE.
HEH! INVESTIGATION, HUH.
I DOUBT THE POLICE WILL EVEN FIND ANYTHING USEFUL.
PEOPLE ALWAYS COME UP WITH THEIR OWN VERSION OF A STORY, AFTER ALL.

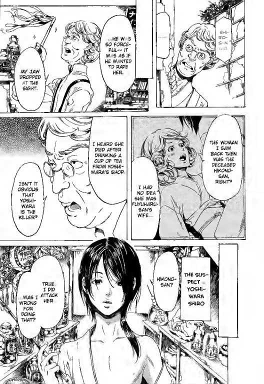

TESTIMONY #1 .. HATSUE - A FRIEND OF HIKONO THE VICTIM
HIKO-NO-CHAN CHEATED!? THAT'S ABSURD!
I'M HER CLOSE FRIEND AND I KNOW HOW INTIMATE SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE!
HER HUSBAND, FUYUHARU-SAN, IS A NOVELIST AND A RATHER QUIET PERSON
PAINTING IS HIS HOBBY YOU CAN TELL HE'S A VERY ARTISTIC MAN.
ON THE OTHER HAND, HIKO-NO-CHAN WAS...
A RELIABLE AND CHARMING WOMAN.
THEY WERE A HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE.

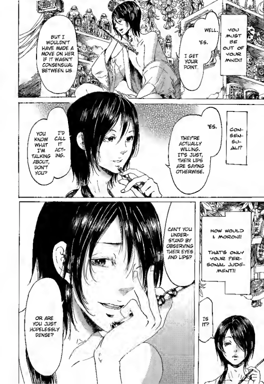

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THEM IN AN ARGUMENT?
HMM... WELL, LET'S SEE... IF I HAD TO MENTION ONE...
whisper
IT SEEMS LIKE FUYUHARU-SAN'S BOOKS SOLD VERY POORLY IN THE MARKET.
HE DID WRITE SOME NEW MANUSCRIPTS, BUT HE COULDN'T GET THEM PUBLISHED.
I WONDER IF HIKONO-CHAN EVEN UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION HER HUSBAND WAS IN...
I MEAN, SHE HAD THIS HABIT OF WASTING MONEY.
TESTIMONY #2 THE OWNER OF AN ART MATERIALS SHOP
AH, URYU FUYUHARU-SAN IS A REGULAR AT OUR SHOP.
WATERCOLOR PAINTING IS HIS HOBBY, SO HE OFTEN COMES HERE TO PURCHASE PAINTING SUPPLIES.

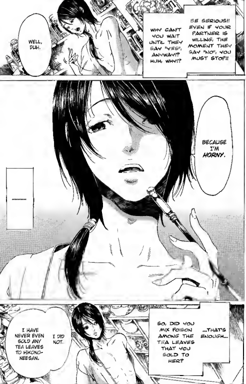

DO YOU KNOW A MAN NAMED YOSHIWARA SHIRO?
I MOST CERTAINLY DO! HE LIVES IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I HEARD HE HAD KILLED SOMEONE.
BUT I MUST SAY I KNEW IT'D BECOME LIKE THIS SOMEDAY.
HE WAS FAMOUS FOR BEING A LADY-KILLER.
AND THAT GUY ONLY CREATES FUNNY-LOOKING UMBRELLAS!
HE CAN'T BE EARNING MUCH FROM SELLING THOSE.
BESIDES, HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO WOULD GO AS FAR AS TO RAPE THE GIRL HE LIKES.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
EVERYONE SAYS HE'S A PARASITE WHO LIVES OFF WOMEN.
YEAH. I SAW IT THE OTHER DAY...

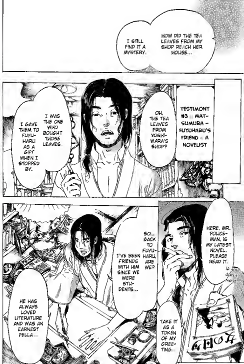

When I walked passed a back alley...
STOP !!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, SHIRO-SAN !!
DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO STOP?
QUIT JOKING, YOU!
IT'S PRECISELY THAT FACE
THAT MAKES ME WANT TO TEASE YOU MORE, HIKONO-NEE-SAN
NO!!
YANK


...AH!
GRIP
AH-HH!
STOP IT!
SHI-RO-SAN!

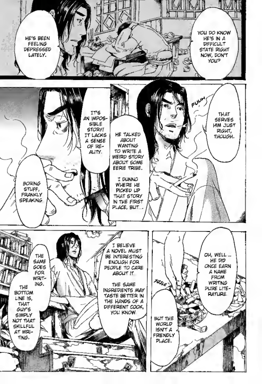

SHIROSAN ...!!
...HE WAS SO FORCEFUL-- IT WAS AS IF HE WANTED TO RAPE HER.
MY JAW DROPPED AT THE SIGHT.
THE WOMAN I SAW BACK THEN WAS THE DECEASED HIKONO-SAN, RIGHT?
I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS FUYUHARU-SAN'S WIFE....
I HEARD SHE DIED AFTER DRINKING A CUP OF TEA FROM YOSHIWARA'S SHOP.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT YOSHIWARA IS THE KILLER?
THE SUSPECT YOSHIWARA SHIRO
HIKONO-SAN?
TRUE. I DID ATTACK HER
...WAS I WRONG FOR DOING THAT?

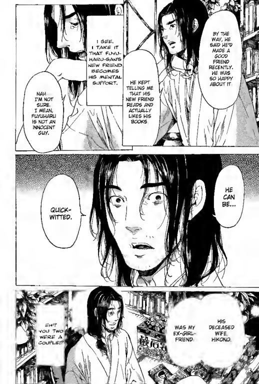

YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!!
WELL, 'ES.
I GET YOUR POINT.
BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A MOVE ON HER IF IT WASN'T CONSENSUAL BETWEEN US
CONSENSUAL!?
'ES.
THEY'RE ACTUALLY WILLING. IT'S JUST, THEIR LIPS ARE SAYING OTHERWISE.
I'D CALL IT ACTING.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DON'T YOU?
HOW WOULD I, MORON!!
THAT'S ONLY YOUR PERSONAL JUDGMENT!!
IS IT?
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND BY OBSERVING THEIR EYES AND LIPS?
OR ARE YOU JUST HOPELESSLY DENSE?

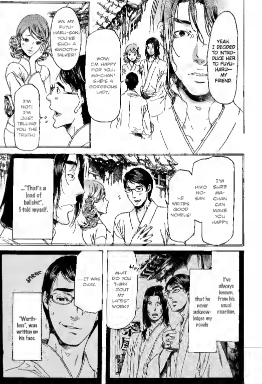

BE SERIOUS!! EVEN IF YOUR PARTNER IS WILLING, THE MOMENT THEY SAY "NO", YOU MUST STOP!!
WHY CAN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL THEY SAY "YES", ANYWAY!? HUH, WHY!?
WELL, DUH.
BECAUSE I'M *HORNY*.
....
...THAT'S ENOUGH...
SO, DID YOU MIX POISON AMONG THE TEA LEAVES THAT YOU SOLD TO HER?
I DID NOT.
I HAVE NEVER EVEN SOLD ANY TEA LEAVES TO HIKONO-NEESAN.

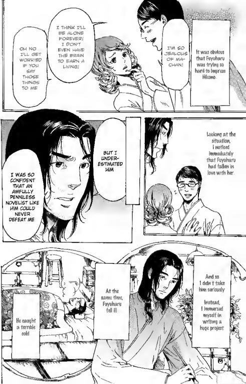

HOW DID THE TEA LEAVES FROM MY SHOP REACH HER HOUSE...
I STILL FIND IT A MYSTERY.
TESTIMONY #3 MATSUMURA – FUYUHARU'S FRIEND · A NOVELIST
OH, THE TEA LEAVES FROM YOSHIWARA'S SHOP?
I WAS THE ONE WHO BOUGHT THOSE LEAVES.
I GAVE THEM TO FUYUHARU AS A GIFT WHEN I STOPPED BY.
HERE, MR. POLICEMAN, IS MY LATEST NOVEL. PLEASE READ IT.
If you don't mind
TAKE IT AS A TOKEN OF MY GREETING.
SO... BACK TO FUYUHARU, ARE WE?
I'VE BEEN FRIENDS WITH HIM SINCE WE WERE STUDENTS...
HE HAS ALWAYS LOVED LITERATURE AND WAS AN EARNEST FELLA...

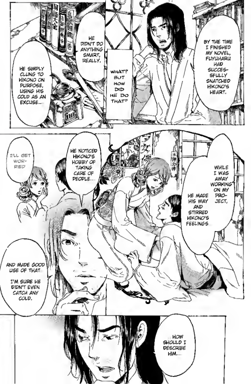
Title: A Woman's Twilight

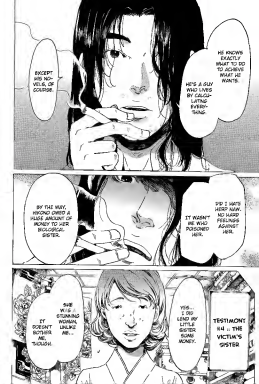

YOU DO KNOW HE'S IN A DIFFICULT STATE RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU?
HE'S BEEN FEELING DEPRESSED LATELY.
FUUH
THAT SERVES HIM JUST RIGHT, THOUGH.
HE TALKED ABOUT WANTING TO WRITE A WEIRD STORY ABOUT SOME EERIE TRIBE.
I DUNNO WHERE HE PICKED UP THAT STORY IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT...
IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE STORY! IT LACKS A SENSE OF REALITY.
BORING STUFF, FRANKLY SPEAKING.
OH, WELL .. HE DID ONCE EARN A NAME FROM WRITING PURE LITERATURE.
SIZZLE
BUT THE WORLD ISN'T A FRIENDLY PLACE.
I BELIEVE A NOVEL MUST BE INTERESTING ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO CARE ABOUT IT.
THE SAME INGREDIENTS MAY TASTE BETTER IN THE HANDS OF A DIFFERENT COOK, YOU KNOW.
THE SAME GOES FOR WRITING.
THE BOTTOM LINE IS, THAT GUY'S SIMPLY NOT THAT SKILLFUL AT WRITING.

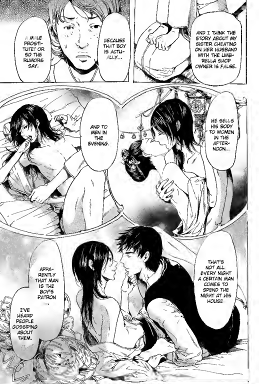

BY THE WAY, HE SAID HE'D MADE A GOOD FRIEND RECENTLY. HE WAS SO HAPPY ABOUT IT.
HE KEPT TELLING ME THAT HIS NEW FRIEND READS AND ACTUALLY LIKES HIS BOOKS.
I SEE. I TAKE IT THAT FUYUHARU-SAN'S NEW FRIEND BECOMES HIS MENTAL SUPPORT.
NAH I'M NOT SURE. I MEAN, FUYUHARU IS NOT AN INNOCENT GUY.
HE CAN BE...
QUICK-WITTED.
HIS DECEASED WIFE HIKONO
WAS MY EX-GIRLFRIEND.
EH!? YOU TWO WERE A COUPLE!?

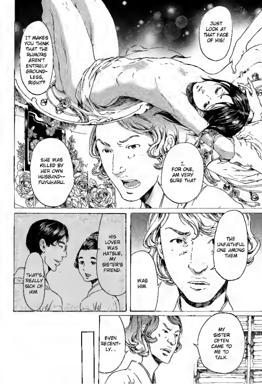

YEAH. I DECIDED TO INTRODUCE HER TO FUYUHARU-- MY FRIEND.
WOW! I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, MA-CHAN! SHE'S A GORGEOUS LADY!
MY, MY FUYUHARU-SAN, YOU'RE SUCH A SMOOTH-TALKER!
I'M NOT! I'M JUST TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
I'M SURE MA-CHAN CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY,
HIKONO-SAN
HE WRITES GOOD NOVELS!
..."That's a load of bullshit", I told myself.
I've always known, from his usual reaction,
that he never acknowledges my novels
Hey
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MY LATEST WORK?
...IT WAS OKAY.
sneer
"Worthless", was written on his face.

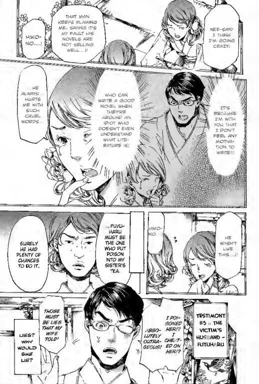

It was obvious that Fuyuharu was trying so hard to impress Hikono.
I'M SO JEALOUS OF MA-CHAN!
I THINK I'LL BE ALONE FOREVER! I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE BRAIN TO EARN A LIVING!
OH NO I'LL GET WORRIED IF YOU SAY THOSE THINGS TO ME
Looking at the situation, I noticed immediately that Fuyuharu had fallen in love with her.
BUT I UNDERESTIMATED HIM
I WAS SO CONFIDENT THAT AN AWFULLY PENNILESS NOVELIST LIKE HIM COULD NEVER DEFEAT ME
And so I didn't take him seriously
Instead, I immersed myself in writing a huge project
At the same time, Fuyuharu fell ill
He caught a terrible cold

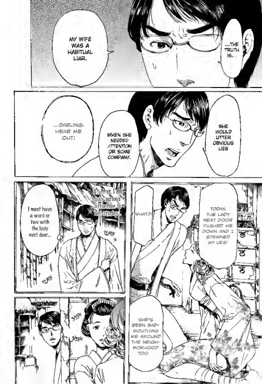

BY THE TIME I FINISHED MY NOVEL, FUYUHARU HAD SUCCESSFULLY SNATCHED HIKONO'S HEART.
WHAT? BUT HOW DID HE DO THAT?
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SMART, REALLY.
HE SIMPLY CLUNG TO HIKONO ON PURPOSE, USING HIS COLD AS AN EXCUSE...
WHILE I WAS AWAY WORKING ON MY PROJECT,
HE MADE HIS WAY AND STIRRED HIKONO'S FEELINGS.
HE NOTICED HIKONO'S HOBBY OF TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE...
I'LL GET WORRIED
AND MADE GOOD USE OF THAT.
I'M SURE HE DIDN'T EVEN CATCH ANY COLD.
HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE HIM...

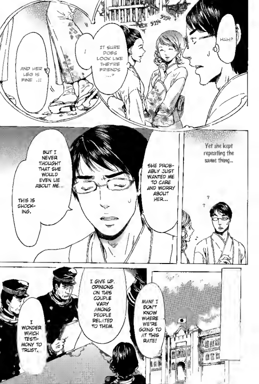

HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT TO DO TO ACHIEVE WHAT HE WANTS.
HE'S A GUY WHO LIVES BY CALCULATING EVERYTHING.
EXCEPT HIS NOVELS, OF COURSE.
DID I HATE HER? NAW. NO HARD FEELINGS AGAINST HER.
IT WASN'T ME WHO POISONED HER.
BY THE WAY, HIKONO OWED A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO HER BIOLOGICAL SISTER.
TESTIMONY #4 :: THE VICTIM'S SISTER
YES... I DID LEND MY LITTLE SISTER SOME MONEY.
SHE WAS A STUNNING WOMAN, UNLIKE ME...
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME, THOUGH.

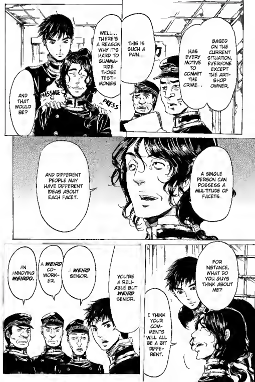

AND I THINK THE STORY ABOUT MY SISTER CHEATING ON HER HUSBAND WITH THE UMBRELLA SHOP OWNER IS FALSE.
BECAUSE THAT BOY IS ACTUALLY...
A MALE PROSTITUTE! OR SO THE RUMORS SAY.
HE SELLS HIS BODY TO WOMEN IN THE AFTERNOON...
AND TO MEN IN THE EVENING.
THAT'S NOT ALL EVERY NIGHT A CERTAIN MAN COMES TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT HIS HOUSE
APPARENTLY THAT MAN IS THE BOY'S PATRON
I'VE HEARD PEOPLE GOSSIPING ABOUT THEM.

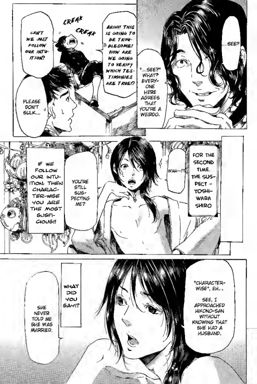

JUST LOOK AT THAT FACE OF HIS!
IT MAKES YOU THINK THAT THE RUMORS AREN'T ENTIRELY GROUNDLESS, RIGHT?
I, FOR ONE, AM VERY SURE THAT
SHE WAS KILLED BY HER OWN HUSBAND-- FUYUHARU.
THE UNFAITHFUL ONE AMONG THEM
WAS HIM.
HIS LOVER WAS HATSUE, MY SISTER'S FRIEND.
THAT'S REALLY SICK OF HIM.
MY SISTER OFTEN CAME TO ME TO TALK.
EVEN RECENTLY. .

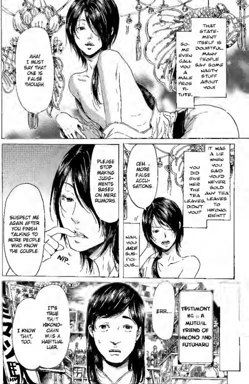

NEE-SAN! I THINK I'M GOING CRAZY!
THAT MAN KEEPS BLAMING ME, SAYING IT'S MY FAULT HIS NOVELS ARE NOT SELLING WELL...!!
HIKO-NO...!
IT'S BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU THAT I DON'T FEEL ANY MOTIVATION TO WRITE!!
WHO CAN WRITE A GOOD NOVEL WHEN THEY'RE AROUND AN IDIOT WHO DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT LITERATURE IS!
HE ALWAYS HURTS ME WITH SUCH CRUEL WORDS...
HE WASN'T LIKE THIS...!!
HIKO-NO
?
FUYUHARU MUST BE THE ONE WHO PUT POISON INTO MY SISTER'S TEA.
SURELY HE HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO DO IT.
TESTIMONY #5 :: THE VICTIM'S HUSBAND - FUYUHARU
I POISONED HER!? I CHEATED ON HER!?
ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS!
THOSE MUST BE LIES THAT MY WIFE TOLD!
LIES? WHY WOULD SHE LIE?

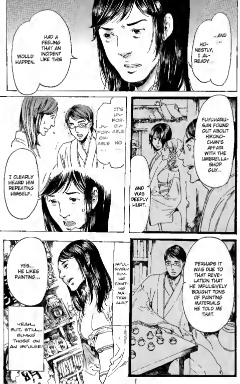

...THE TRUTH IS...
MY WIFE WAS A HABITUAL LIAR.
SHE WOULD UTTER OBVIOUS LIES
WHEN SHE NEEDED ATTENTION OR SOME COMPANY.
...DARLING, HEAR ME OUT!
TODAY, THE LADY NEXT DOOR PUSHED ME DOWN AND I SPRAINED MY LEG!
WHAT?!
SHE'S BEEN BAD-MOUTHING ME AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOO
At first, I did pay serious attention to her stories
I must have a word or two with the lady next door...
CLACK
CLACK
giggle
giggle

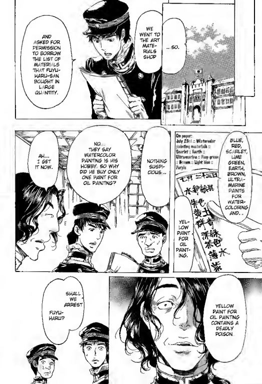

HUH?
giggle giggle
!
IT SURE DOES LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FRIENDS ...?
AND HER LEG IS FINE ..!!
Yet she kept repeating the same thing...
?
?
SHE PROBABLY JUST WANTED ME TO CARE AND WORRY ABOUT HER...
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT SHE WOULD EVEN LIE ABOUT ME.
THIS IS SHOCKING.
MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING TO AT THIS RATE!
I GIVE UP. OPINIONS ON THIS COUPLE VARY AMONG PEOPLE RELATED TO THEM.
I WONDER WHICH TESTIMONY TO TRUST.


BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION, EVERYONE EXCEPT THE ART-SHOP OWNER,
HAS EVERY MOTIVE TO COMMIT THE CRIME..
THIS IS SUCH A PAIN.
WELL .. THERE'S A REASON WHY IT'S HARD TO SUMMARIZE THOSE TESTIMONIES
AND THAT WOULD BE?
MASSAGE
PRESS
A SINGLE PERSON CAN POSSESS A MULTITUDE OF FACETS.
AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT EACH FACET.
FOR INSTANCE, WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT ME?
I THINK YOUR COMMENTS WILL ALL BE A BIT DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE A RELIABLE BUT ***WEIRD*** SENIOR.
A ***WEIRD*** SENIOR.
A ***WEIRD*** CO-WORKER.
AN ANNOYING ***WEIRDO.***

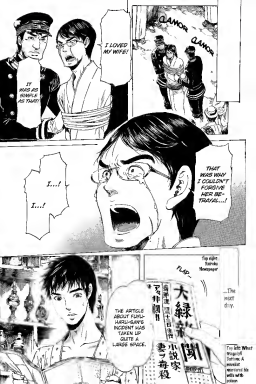

...SEE?
"...SEE?" WHAT? EVERYONE HERE AGREES THAT YOU'RE A WEIRDO.
ARGH! THIS IS GOING TO BE TROUBLESOME! HOW ARE WE GOING TO VERIFY WHICH TESTIMONIES ARE TRUE!?
CREAK
CREAK
CAN'T WE JUST FOLLOW OUR INTUITION?
PLEASE DON'T SULK...
FOR THE SECOND TIME, THE SUSPECT – YOSHIWARA SHIRO
WHA--!?
YOU'RE STILL SUSPECTING ME?
IF WE FOLLOW OUR INTUITION, THEN CHARACTER-WISE YOU ARE THE MOST SUSPICIOUS!!
"CHARACTER-WISE", EH..
SEE, I APPROACHED HIKONO-SAN WITHOUT KNOWING THAT SHE HAD A HUSBAND.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
SHE NEVER TOLD ME SHE WAS MARRIED.

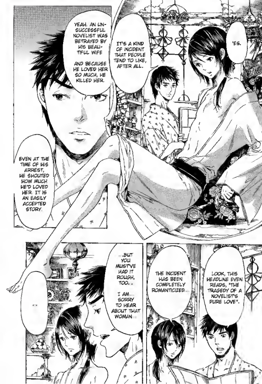

THAT STATEMENT ITSELF IS DOUBTFUL. MANY PEOPLE SAY SOME NASTY STUFF ABOUT YOU!
SOME EVEN CALL YOU A MALE PROSTITUTE.
AHA! I MUST SAY THAT ONE IS FALSE THOUGH.
IT WAS A LIE WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER SOLD ANY TEA LEAVES TO HIKONO, RIGHT?
YOU DID GIVE HER THE TEA LEAVES, DIDN'T YOU?
CEH. MORE FALSE ACCUSATIONS.
NAH. YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS...
PLEASE STOP MAKING JUDGMENTS BASED ON MERE RUMORS.
SUSPECT ME AGAIN AFTER YOU FINISH TALKING TO MORE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE COUPLE.
NIP
TESTIMONY #6: A MUTUAL FRIEND OF HIKONO AND FUYUHARU
ERR...
IT'S TRUE THAT HIKONO-CHAN WAS A HABITUAL LIAR.
I KNOW THAT, TOO.

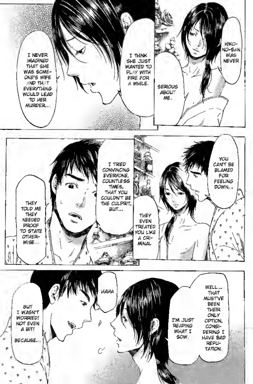

...AND .. HONESTLY, I ALREADY
HAD A FEELING THAT AN INCIDENT LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
FUYUHARU-SAN FOUND OUT ABOUT HIKONO-CHAN'S AFFAIR WITH THE UMBRELLA-SHOP GUY...
AND WAS DEEPLY HURT.
IT'S UNFORGIVABLE NO — UNFORGIVABLE ...
I CLEARLY HEARD HIM REPEATING HIMSELF.
PERHAPS IT WAS DUE TO THAT REVELATION THAT HE IMPULSIVELY BOUGHT TONS OF PAINTING MATERIALS HE TOLD ME THAT.
IMPULSIVELY BUYING PAINTING MATERIALS!?
YES... HE LIKES PAINTING...
YEAH... BUT, STILL... BUYING THOSE ON AN IMPULSE!

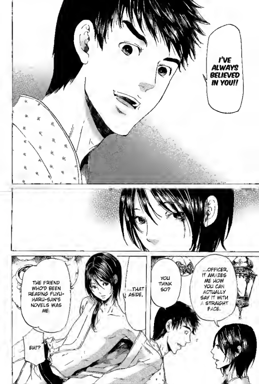

..SO.
WE WENT TO THE ART MATERIALS SHOP
AND ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO BORROW THE LIST OF MATERIALS THAT FUYUHARU-SAN BOUGHT IN LARGE QUANTITY.
七月 二十三日
水彩絵具
朱色
黄土
群青
深緑
茶色
薄水
紫
BLUE, RED, SCARLET, LIME GREEN, EARTH, BROWN, ULTRAMARINE PAINTS FOR WATERCOLORING AND..
YELLOW PAINT FOR OIL PAINTING.
NOTHING SUSPICIOUS...
NO... THEY SAY WATERCOLOR PAINTING IS HIS HOBBY. SO WHY DID HE BUY ONLY ONE PAINT FOR OIL PAINTING?
AH... I GET IT NOW.
YELLOW PAINT FOR OIL PAINTING CONTAINS A DEADLY POISON.
SHALL WE ARREST FUYUHARU?

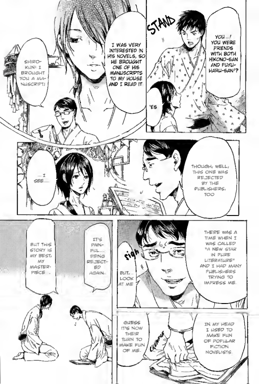
On paper:
July 23rd :: Watercolor painting materials :: Scarlet :: Earth :: Ultramarine :: Deep green :: Brown :: Light blue :: Purple

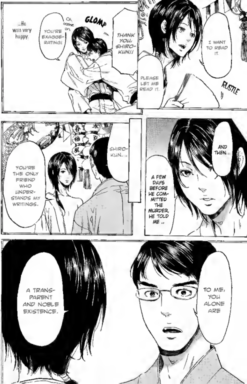

QAMOR
QAMOR
I LOVED MY WIFE!
IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT!
THAT WAS WHY I COULDN'T FORGIVE HER BETRAYAL...!
I...!
I...!
...The next day.
Top right: Dairoku Newspaper
FLAP...
大緑新聞
アゝ非劇!!
小説家、妻ヲ毒殺
毎日夕刊
THE ARTICLE ABOUT FUYUHARU-SAN'S INCIDENT HAS TAKEN UP QUITE A LARGE SPACE.
Top left: What tragedy!! Bottom: A novelist murdered his wife with poison.

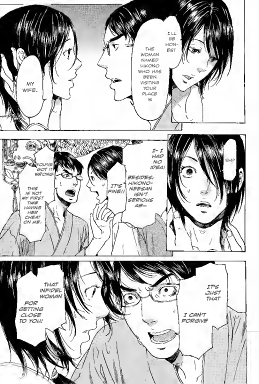

'ES.
IT'S A KIND OF INCIDENT THAT PEOPLE TEND TO LIKE, AFTER ALL.
YEAH. AN UNSUCCESSFUL NOVELIST WAS BETRAYED BY HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE AND BECAUSE HE LOVED HER SO MUCH, HE KILLED HER.
EVEN AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST, HE SHOUTED HOW MUCH HE'D LOVED HER. IT IS AN EASILY ACCEPTED STORY.
LOOK, THIS HEADLINE EVEN READS, "THE TRAGEDY OF A NOVELIST'S PURE LOVE".
THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY ROMANTICIZED...
...BUT YOU MUST'VE HAD IT ROUGH, TOO... I AM... SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THAT WOMAN...
...

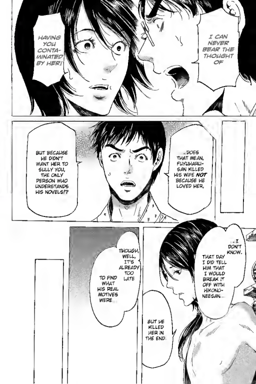

HIKO-NO-SAN WAS NEVER
SERIOUS ABOUT ME.
I THINK SHE JUST WANTED TO PLAY WITH FIRE FOR A WHILE.
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SHE WAS SOMEONE'S WIFE AND THAT EVERYTHING WOULD LEAD TO HER MURDER...
YOU CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR FEELING DOWN..
THEY EVEN TREATED YOU LIKE A CRIMINAL
I TRIED CONVINCING EVERYONE, COUNTLESS TIMES, THAT YOU COULDN'T BE THE CULPRIT, BUT...
THEY TOLD ME THEY NEEDED PROOF TO STATE OTHERWISE...
WELL... THAT MUST'VE BEEN THEIR ONLY OPTION, CONSIDERING I HAVE BAD REPUTATION
I'M JUST REAPING WHAT I SOW.
HAHA
BUT I WASN'T WORRIED! NOT EVEN A BIT!
BECAUSE...

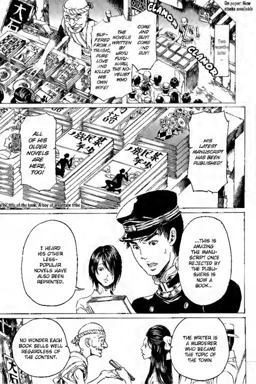

I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU!!
...OFFICER, IT AMAZES ME HOW YOU CAN ACTUALLY SAY IT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE.
YOU THINK SO?
...THAT ASIDE,
THE FRIEND WHO'D BEEN READING FUYUHARU-SAN'S NOVELS WAS ME.
EH!?

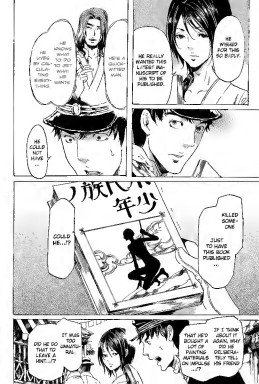

STAND
YOU... YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH BOTH HIKONO-SAN AND FUYUHARU-SAN!?
'ES
I WAS VERY INTERESTED IN HIS NOVELS, SO HE BROUGHT ONE OF HIS MANUSCRIPTS TO MY HOUSE AND I READ IT.
SHIRO-KUN! I BROUGHT YOU A MANUSCRIPT!
THOUGH, WELL, THIS ONE WAS REJECTED BY THE PUBLISHERS, TOO
...I SEE...
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS CALLED "A NEW STAR IN PURE LITERATURE" AND I HAD MANY PUBLISHERS TRYING TO IMPRESS ME.
sigh
BUT... LOOK AT ME
IT'S PAINFUL... BEING REJECTED AGAIN.
BUT THIS STORY IS MY BEST, MY MASTERPIECE.
IN MY HEAD I USED TO MAKE FUN OF POPULAR FICTION NOVELISTS.
CRUMPLE
GUESS IT'S NOW THEIR TURN TO MAKE FUN OF ME.

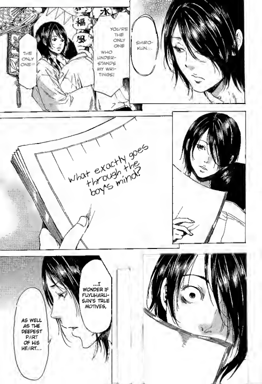

I WANT TO READ IT.
PLEASE LET ME READ IT.
RUSTLE
THANK YOU, SHIRO-KUN!!
GLOMP
Oh come on
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING!
...He was very happy.
AND THEN...
A FEW DAYS BEFORE HE COMMITTED THE MURDER, HE TOLD ME ..
SHIRO-KUN...
YOU'RE THE ONLY FRIEND WHO UNDERSTANDS MY WRITINGS.
TO ME, YOU ALONE ARE
A TRANSPARENT AND NOBLE EXISTENCE.

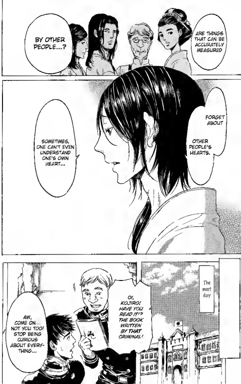

I'LL BE HONEST
THE WOMAN NAMED HIKONO WHO HAS BEEN VISITING YOUR PLACE IS
MY WIFE.
EH?
I- I HAD NO IDEA!
BESIDES, HIKONO-NEESAN ISN'T SERIOUS AB—
IT'S FINE!!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
THIS IS NOT MY FIRST TIME HAVING HER CHEAT ON ME.
IT'S JUST THAT
I CAN'T FORGIVE
THAT INFIDEL WOMAN
FOR GETTING CLOSE TO YOU!!

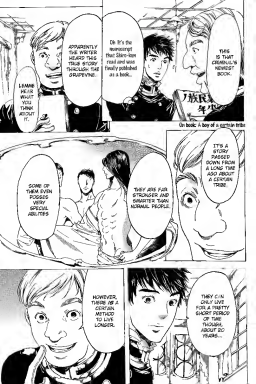

I CAN NEVER BEAR THE THOUGHT OF
HAVING YOU CONTAMINATED BY HER!
...DOES THAT MEAN, FUYUHARU-SAN KILLED HIS WIFE ***NOT*** BECAUSE HE LOVED HER,
BUT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT HER TO SULLY YOU, THE ONLY PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS HIS NOVELS!?
...I DON'T KNOW.
THAT DAY I DID TELL HIM THAT I WOULD BREAK IT OFF WITH HIKONO-NEESAN...
BUT HE KILLED HER IN THE END.
THOUGH, WELL, IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE
TO FIND WHAT HIS REAL MOTIVES WERE...

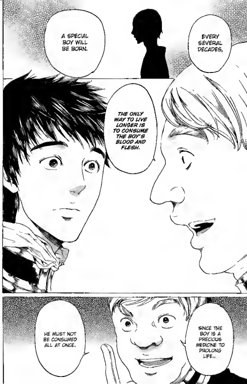

On paper: New stocks available
Two months later ...
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
COME AND BUY! COME AND BUY!
THE NOVELS WRITTEN BY URYU FUYUHARU, THE NOVELIST WHO
SUFFERED FROM A TRAGIC, PURE LOVE AND KILLED HIS OWN WIFE!
HIS LATEST MANUSCRIPT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED!
ALL OF HIS OLDER NOVELS ARE HERE, TOO!
The title of the book: A boy of a certain tribe
...THIS IS AMAZING THE MANUSCRIPT ONCE REJECTED BY THE PUBLISHERS IS NOW A BOOK...
I HEARD HIS OTHER LESS-POPULAR NOVELS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPRINTED.
THE WRITER IS A MURDERER WHO BECAME THE TOPIC OF THE TOWN.
NO WONDER EACH BOOK SELLS WELL REGARDLESS OF THE CONTENT.

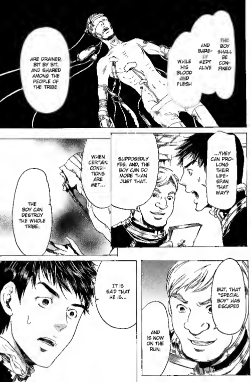

HE WISHED FOR THIS SO BADLY.
HE REALLY WANTED THIS LATEST MANUSCRIPT OF HIS TO BE PUBLISHED.
HE'S A QUICK-WITTED MAN.
HE KNOWS WHAT TO DO TO GET WHAT HE WANTS.
HE LIVES BY CALCULATING EVERYTHING.
HE COULD NOT HAVE ...
年少
KILLED SOMEONE
JUST TO HAVE THIS BOOK PUBLISHED ...
COULD HE...!?
IF I THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN, WHY DID HE DELIBERATELY TELL HIS FRIEND
THAT HE'D BOUGHT A LOT OF PAINTING MATERIALS ON IMPULSE ...!?
IT WAS TOO UNNATURAL.
DID HE DO THAT TO LEAVE A HINT...!?

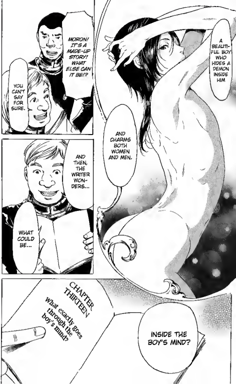

SHIRO-KUN...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS MY WRITINGS!
THE ONLY ONE!!
水
福
風
what exactly goes through the boy's mind?
...I WONDER IF FUYUHARU-SAN'S TRUE MOTIVES,
AS WELL AS THE DEEPEST PART OF HIS HEART...

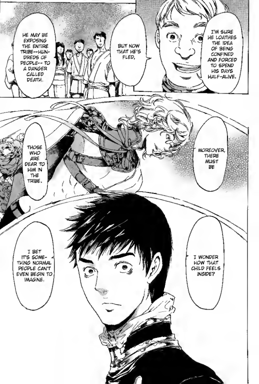

ARE THINGS THAT CAN BE ACCURATELY MEASURED
BY OTHER PEOPLE...?
FORGET ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
SOMETIMES, ONE CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ONE'S OWN HEART...
The next day
OI, KOJIRO! HAVE YOU READ IT!? THE BOOK WRITTEN BY THAT CRIMINAL!
AW, COME ON... NOT YOU TOO! STOP BEING CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING...

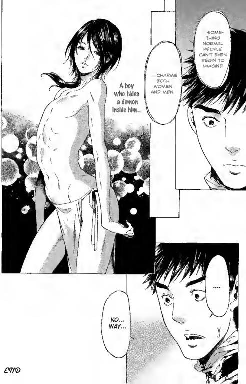

THIS IS THAT CRIMINAL'S NEWEST BOOK.
Oh It's the manuscript that Shiro-kun read and was finally published as a book...
APPARENTLY THE WRITER HEARD THIS TRUE STORY THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE..
LEMME HEAR WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
On book: A boy of a certain tribe
IT'S A STORY PASSED DOWN FROM A LONG TIME AGO ABOUT A CERTAIN TRIBE.
THEY ARE FAR STRONGER AND SMARTER THAN NORMAL PEOPLE.
SOME OF THEM EVEN POSSES VERY SPECIAL ABILITIES
THEY CAN ONLY LIVE FOR A PRETTY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THOUGH, ABOUT 20 YEARS...
HOWEVER, THERE IS A CERTAIN METHOD TO LIVE LONGER.


EVERY SEVERAL DECADES,
A SPECIAL BOY WILL BE BORN.
THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE LONGER IS TO CONSUME THE BOY'S BLOOD AND FLESH.
SINCE THE BOY IS A PRECIOUS MEDICINE TO PROLONG LIFE..
HE MUST NOT BE CONSUMED ALL AT ONCE.


THE BOY SHALL BE CONFINED
AND BARELY KEPT ALIVE
WHILE HIS BLOOD AND FLESH
ARE DRAINED BIT BY BIT AND SHARED AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE TRIBE
...THEY CAN PROLONG THEIR LIFESPAN THAT WAY?
SUPPOSEDLY YES. AND, THE BOY CAN DO MORE THAN JUST THAT.
WHEN CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET...
THE BOY CAN DESTROY THE WHOLE TRIBE
BUT, THAT "SPECIAL BOY" HAS ESCAPED
AND IS NOW ON THE RUN.
IT IS SAID THAT HE IS...

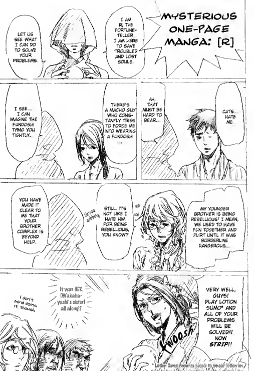

A BEAUTIFUL BOY WHO HIDES A DEMON INSIDE HIM
AND CHARMS BOTH WOMEN AND MEN.
MORON! IT'S A MADE-UP STORY! WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE!?
YOU CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.
AND THEN, THE WRITER WONDERS...
WHAT COULD BE...
CHAPTER THIRTEEN
What exactly goes through the boy's mind?
INSIDE THE BOY'S MIND?


I'M SURE HE LOATHES THE IDEA OF BEING CONFINED AND FORCED TO SPEND HIS DAYS HALF-ALIVE.
BUT NOW THAT HE'S FLED,
HE MAY BE EXPOSING THE ENTIRE TRIBE--HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE-- TO A DANGER CALLED DEATH.
MOREOVER, THERE MUST BE
THOSE WHO ARE DEAR TO HIM IN THE TRIBE.
I WONDER HOW THAT CHILD FEELS INSIDE?
I BET IT'S SOMETHING NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE.


A boy who hides a demon inside him...
...CHARMS BOTH WOMEN AND MEN
SOMETHING NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE
....
NO... WAY...

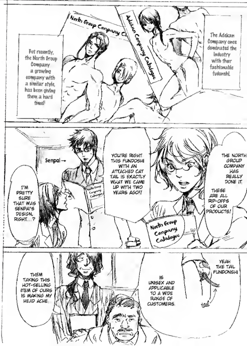
END

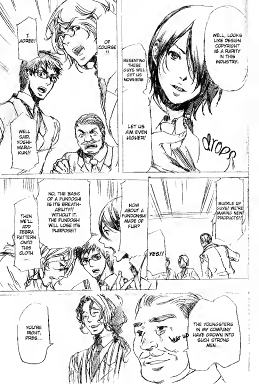
MYSTERIOUS ONE-PAGE MANGA: [R]

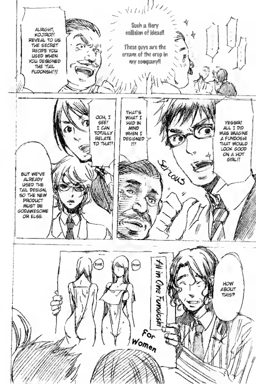

I AM R, THE FORTUNE-TELLER. I AM HERE TO SAVE TROUBLED AND LOST SOULS.
LET US SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS.
CATS... HATE ME.
AH, THAT MUST BE HARD TO BEAR...
THERE'S A MACHO GUY WHO CONSTANTLY TRIES TO FORCE ME INTO WEARING A FUNDOSHI.
I SEE... I CAN IMAGINE THE FUNDOSHI TYING YOU TIGHTLY.
MY YOUNGER BROTHER IS BEING REBELLIOUS! I MEAN, WE USED TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER AND FLIRT UNTIL IT WAS BORDERLINE DANGEROUS...
sob sob
STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE HIM FOR BEING REBELLIOUS, YOU KNOW?
Gross sobbing
YOU HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT YOUR BROTHER COMPLEX IS BEYOND HELP.
VERY WELL, GUYS! PLAY LOTION SUMO* AND ALL OF YOUR PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED!! NOW STRIP!!
KWOOSH
It was HER (Wakabayashi's sister) all along!?
I don't mind doing it though

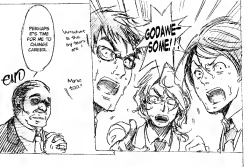
* Lotion Sumo requires people to smear lotion on their bodies before wrestling, making their bodies slippery, thus increasing the difficulty

EXTRA MANGA
~ADEKAN COMPANY~

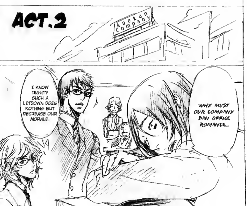

The Adekan Company once dominated the industry with their fashionable fundoshi.
Adekan Company Catalogue
North Group Company Catalogue
But recently, the North Group Company a growing company with a similar style, has been giving them a hard time!
THE NORTH GROUP COMPANY HAS REALLY DONE IT. THESE ARE ALL RIP-OFFS OF OUR PRODUCTS!
North Group Company Catalogue
YOU'RE RIGHT THIS FUNDOSHI WITH AN ATTACHED CAT TAIL IS EXACTLY WHAT WE CAME UP WITH TWO YEARS AGO!!
Senpai→
North Group Company Catalogue
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS SENPAI'S DESIGN, RIGHT...?
YEAH THE TAIL FUNDOSHI
tail
IS UNISEX AND APPLICABLE TO A WIDE RANGE OF CUSTOMERS.
THEM TAKING THIS HOT-SELLING ITEM OF OURS IS MAKING MY HEAD ACHE.

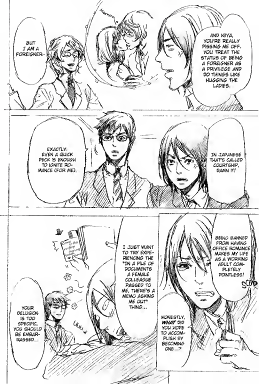

WELL, LOOKS LIKE DESIGN COPYRIGHT IS A RARITY IN THIS INDUSTRY.
RESENTING THESE GUYS WILL GET US NOWHERE
LET US AIM EVEN HIGHER!
drops
OF COURSE!!
I AGREE!
WELL SAID, YOSHIWARA-KUN!!
BUCKLE UP GUYS! WE'RE MAKING NEW PRODUCTS!!
YES!!
HOW ABOUT A FUNDOSHI MADE OF FUR?
NO, THE BASIC OF A FUNDOSHI IS ITS BREATHABILITY!! WITHOUT IT, THE FUNDOSHI WILL LOSE ITS PURPOSE!!
THEN WE'LL ADD ZEBRA PATTERN ONTO THIS CLOTH
THE YOUNGSTERS IN MY COMPANY HAVE GROWN INTO SUCH STRONG MEN
tear up
YOU'RE RIGHT, PRES...

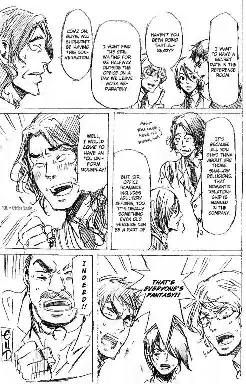

Such a fiery collision of ideas!!
These guys are the cream of the crop in my company!!
ALRIGHT, KOJIRO!! REVEAL TO US THE SECRET RECIPE YOU USED WHEN YOU DESIGNED THE 'TAIL FUDOSHI'!!
YESSIR! ALL I DID WAS IMAGINE A FUNDOSHI THAT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON A HOT GIRL!!
THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN I DESIGNED IT!
Serious
OOH, I SEE! I CAN TOTALLY RELATE TO THAT!
BUT WE'VE ALREADY USED THE TAIL DESIGN, SO THE NEW PRODUCT MUST BE GODAWESOME OR ELSE.
HOW ABOUT THIS?
All in One Fundoshi
For Women
Front
Back


GODAWESOME!!
W-what is this my tears are !!
Mine too!!
PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CHANGE CAREER.
END

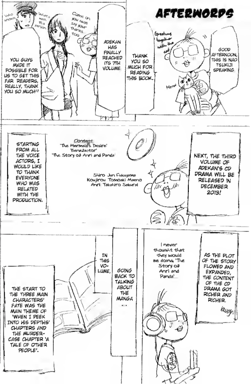
ACT.2

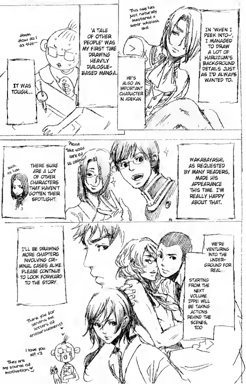

Adekan Company
I KNOW RIGHT? SUCH A LETDOWN DOES NOTHING BUT DECREASE OUR MORALE.
WHY MUST OUR COMPANY BAN OFFICE ROMANCE...


AND NIIYA, YOU'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF. YOU TREAT THE STATUS OF BEING A FOREIGNER AS A PRIVILEGE AND DO THINGS LIKE HUGGING THE LADIES.
Morning ♥
BUT I AM A FOREIGNER-
IN JAPANESE THAT'S CALLED COURTSHIP, DAMN IT!
EXACTLY. EVEN A QUICK PECK IS ENOUGH TO IGNITE ROMANCE (FOR ME).
BEING BANNED FROM HAVING OFFICE ROMANCE MAKES MY LIFE AS A WORKING ADULT COMPLETELY POINTLESS!
HONESTLY, WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY BECOMING ONE...?
I JUST WANT TO TRY EXPERIENCING THE "IN A PILE OF DOCUMENTS A FEMALE COLLEAGUE PASSED TO ME, THERE'S A MEMO ASKING ME OUT" THING...
Come to the rooftop during break ♥ Emma
YOUR DELUSION IS TOO SPECIFIC, YOU SHOULD BE EMBARRASSED...
Ukiki...


I WANT TO HAVE A SECRET DATE IN THE REFERENCE ROOM.
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN DOING THAT ALREADY?
I WANT FIND THE GIRL WAITING FOR ME HALFWAY OUTSIDE THE OFFICE ON A DAY WE LEAVE WORK SEPARATELY.
COME ON, GUYS, YOU SHOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION.
IT'S BECAUSE ALL YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT ARE THOSE SHALLOW DELUSIONS, THAT ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP IS BANNED IN THE COMPANY.
Ah— you guys have no shame, huh
BUT, SIR, OFFICE ROMANCE INCLUDES ADULTERY AFFAIRS, TOO. IT'S REALLY SOMETHING EVEN OLD GEEZERS CAN BE A PART OF.
WELL, I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE AN *OL UNIFORM ROLEPLAY!
*OL = Office Lady
THAT'S EVERYONE'S FANTASY!!
INDEED!!
END

AFTERWORDS


GOOD AFTERNOON, THIS IS NAO TSUKIJI SPEAKING.
Greeting together with the cat
Meow
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING THIS BOOK.
ADEKAN HAS FINALLY REACHED ITS 7TH VOLUME
Come on you guys say your thanks too
What's with this person
Who knows
YOU GUYS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO GET THIS FAR READERS, REALLY, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
NEXT, THE THIRD VOLUME OF ADEKAN'S CD DRAMA WILL BE RELEASED IN DECEMBER 2013!
Content
'The Mermaid's Desire'
'Benefactor'
'The Story of Anri and Panda'
Shiro Jun Fukuyama
Koujirou Tomoaki Maeno
Anri Takahiro Sakurai
STARTING FROM ALL THE VOICE ACTORS, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO WAS RELATED WITH THE PRODUCTION.
AS THE PLOT OF THE STORY FLOWED AND EXPANDED, THE CONTENT OF THE CD DRAMA GOT RICHER AND RICHER.
laugh
I never thought that they would be doing 'The Story of Anri and Panda'...
GOING BACK TO TALKING ABOUT THE MANGA ...
IN THIS VO- LUME,
THE START TO THE THREE MAIN CHARACTERS' FATE WAS THE MAIN THEME OF 'WHEN I PEEK INTO HIS DEPTHS' CHAPTERS AND THE MURDER-CASE CHAPTER 'A TALE OF OTHER PEOPLE'.


IN 'WHEN I PEEK INTO~', I MANAGED TO DRAW A LOT OF HARUZUMI'S BACKGROUND DETAILS JUST AS I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO.
This guy has just naturally mastered a super whiplash skill
HE'S ALSO AN IMPORTANT CHARACTER IN ADEKAN
'A TALE OF OTHER PEOPLE' WAS MY FIRST TIME DRAWING HEAVILY DIALOGUE-BASED MANGA.
Hmm How do I do this~
IT WAS TOUGH...
WAKABAYASHI, AS REQUESTED BY MANY READERS, MADE HIS APPEARANCE THIS TIME. I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THAT.
Please take good care of us siblings
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF OTHER CHARACTERS THAT HAVEN'T GOTTEN THEIR SPOTLIGHT.
such as him
WE'RE VENTURING INTO THE UNDERGROUND FOR REAL.
STARTING FROM THE NEXT VOLUME IPPEI WILL BE TAKING ACTIONS BEHIND THE SCENES, TOO
I'LL BE DRAWING MORE CHAPTERS INVOLVING CRIMINAL CASES ALIKE. PLEASE CONTINUE TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE STORY.
Thank you for sending me letters of encouragement!!
I love you all!! <3
They are my source of motivation